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Kremlin announces its choice

Gorbachov opts for the free market

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

A STOCK exchange and commercial banks, the privatization of state monopolies, and a revamped tax system have been agreed by President Gorbachov in a decisive move towards free-market capitalism, it was announced yesterday.

Mr Gorbachov's radical economic strategy, to be put to the Soviet government and Parliament, will also free all trade and commerce from government control, reform pricing policy and introduce a new social security system.

Announcing the broad outline of the package yesterday, the President's top economic adviser said that unless the country moved immediately to a free-market system, it would no longer continue as a great power where its citizens would want to live.

Mr Leonid Abalkin, a Deputy Prime Minister, said the crisis was worsening rapidly, and the country could no longer afford the more gradual timetable proposed last autumn. The President had therefore agreed to a radical acceleration of economic restructuring.

"The choice has already been made," Mr Abalkin said. "We can no longer continue balancing between two stools." It was no use redistributing wealth; the important thing was to create more.

He predicted that the economic revolution would be extremely difficult and painful.

ful, and would arouse intense opposition from almost every sector, especially pensioners, ordinary workers and bureaucrats.

But he said the leadership must stand firm and concede nothing: if it made concessions, the entire package would unravel, leaving the country in a worse mess than before.

The crisis has been compounded in recent months by strikes, nationalist unrest, growing political tensions and a disastrous economic performance in the first quarter of this year. Opposition would grow as people realized that all the talk was over and a "regulated market economy" was becoming reality.

Mr Abalkin said it was essential to win public support, but the Government should not be deflected by calls for special help from pensioners, hard hit by stiff price rises, or other groups.

A case could also be made out for coal miners, oil workers, teachers, doctors, the railways - almost every sector of the economy is in a shambles," he said. Help for special groups would add up to tens of billions of roubles more than the total national income.

The Government had to rely on persuasion. Proponents of reform had to speak out. People had to see there was no alternative. "Without such a transition the country has no future as a great power," he said.

"Unless we go over to a new system, we will deprive ourselves and our children of the benefits of a great power, of being a place where people will not be ashamed to live. We have to make sacrifices, but there is no option."

However, the Soviet Union could not afford "shock therapy" on the Polish model, because the Government did not enjoy the same trust as the Government in Warsaw.

No single East European country could provide a model for the change needed here. Top economists, in consultation with Western experts, were working out realistic ways of implementing what had to be done.

He gave no details of the timing or small print of the reform package. He also feared that the Supreme Soviet would not pass some of the more controversial measures, but he said further delay would be disastrous.

The transition to a market economy could not take place overnight. "You will not go to sleep under one economic system and wake up under another." Nor would there be absolute freedom to set new prices. "We must raise prices, but not bring the consumer to his knees."

The Government instead would regulate the new system by classic anti-inflation measures: interest rates, tight money supply and new taxes.

But there was little prospect of a convertible rouble for a long time. Mr Abalkin said that made no sense until a proper market economy had been introduced, prices corresponded to reality, and the rouble could be exchanged at a world market rate.

Legislation was being prepared to introduce a commercial banking system, though in some sectors, such as agriculture, banks would still have to be controlled. But foreign banks would be allowed to set up in the Soviet Union.

He stopped short of calling for a new employing class. The concept of "exploitation" was extremely emotional and sensitive, but there was no bigger exploiter of an individual than the state itself. He asked whether anyone living on the earnings of others was automatically an exploiter: what about pensioners? Soviet workers, however, must always have a right to be consulted and share in decision-making.

The reforms would have overseas implications. In future, individual firms would sign export contracts. Common, the Soviet trading bloc, would conduct future dealings in convertible currency.

Soviet aid to Third World countries was also likely to be cut, especially if it was given purely for ideological motives. All economic relations should be based solely on mutual interest, and not on political considerations.

He said the biggest threat to the reform package came from individual Soviet republics. Some were trying to limit existing reforms, such as the freedom of factories to sell where they liked. Republican governments were insisting on keeping the produce for themselves. "This is a step backwards. It will lead to the splitting up of the country into individual kingdoms," Mr Abalkin said.

Arms U-turn, page 7  
Pepsico deal, page 20



Muslims praying outside the High Court, London, yesterday after their plea to have the *Satanic Verses* ruling overturned had failed. Report, page 5

Britain gives aid in war on drugs

By Quentin Cowdry and Stewart Tisdler

BRITAIN has set up a task force of experts to advise other countries on how to reduce demand for narcotics and is to provide Colombia with more aid worth £4.5 million to help it fight drug dealers.

The Prime Minister, opening the World Ministerial Drugs Summit in London, told delegates from 112 countries that the international community's attempts to curb narcotics misuse through enforcement could never succeed while there was still a market for drugs.

More than 500 delegates are attending the three-day conference which is exploring the issue of reducing demand for drugs and the threat posed by cocaine, the most widely misused drug in many countries.

Among those present are Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, and President Barco of Colombia.

Mrs Thatcher said she believed better health education aimed at the young, more vigorous anti-drugs advertising, earlier identification of drug misusers and measures to "strengthen the importance of the family", could reduce the demand for drugs.

With support for the legalization case increasing in some industrialized countries, notably America, Mrs Thatcher emphasized the strength of the British Government's opposition to the argument.

She said: "Our task is to protect young people, not deliberately expose them to danger. I can assure you that our Government will never legalize illicit drugs."

She was unable to announce any dramatic new British initiative. However, she said that a team of British experts would be available to offer advice to other nations, particularly developing ones, on educational projects and other demand reduction matters.

Cocaine path, page 3  
Conference sketch, page 3  
Leading article, page 13  
Public school tests, page 20

Strikes blamed as Ford kills £225m project

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

FORD yesterday cancelled a £225 million investment in South Wales that would have made Britain its key European engine production centre.

The move was seen as a reprisal for disputes which cost the car company more than £800 million in lost production earlier this year.

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, said it was clear that the strike was one of the reasons for the decision to switch the investment to Germany.

It is the second time in two years that Ford has scrapped British investment plans; it abandoned a £40 million electronics plant in Dundee in 1988 after failing to secure a single-union agreement.

Ford originally allocated £725 million to Bridgend, Dyfed, to build 850,000 new Zeta engines annually, alongside present engine output for Escort, Orion and Sierra cars. That would have concentrated 70 per cent of European engine production in Britain.

"With those engines going to Spain and Germany and

places like that, our supply lines would have been at risk from the weather and from industrial disputes, not only from our own employees but from the shipping unions as well," the company said.

Now the Cologne plant in West Germany will make 300,000 Zeta engines annually, in a move that Ford says will safeguard 3,000 jobs being created at Bridgend and at component suppliers over the next two years.

Union leaders yesterday claimed that Ford was exacting revenge for the winter wildcat strikes that damaged output of some of its best-selling models as national pay negotiations turned into a messy demarcation dispute.

Mr Jimmy Airlie, secretary of Ford's joint negotiating committee, said: "This is a clear signal to the British workforce that it is unreliable. Yet Ford makes its biggest profits in Britain. It is an insult to a workforce which has co-operated fully in working changes."

Mr Jack Adams, Transport

and General Workers' Union national secretary for the car industry said: "This confirms Ford's lack of commitment to the UK, which was apparent in the decision to transfer Sierra production from Dagenham to Belgium last year."

Bridgend workers who had maintained supply of engines to the Continent in spite of stoppages at other plants felt misled and betrayed, he said.

Ford says it has suffered one dispute a week since February, 1988, losing 57,000 man-hours and 10,000 vehicles. Even though wage negotiations this year were solved without a national dispute, a key group of engineers at the Halewood plant on Merseyside and 1,600 electronics nationally refused to accept the 10.2 per cent deal available in the first year.

Ford is thought to have been particularly concerned that the Halewood dispute forced lay-offs at Southampton, where Transit vans are made, and Genk, in Belgium.

Ford investment, page 2

Four UDR men killed by IRA land-mine

By Edward Gorman, Philip Webster and Peter Gafford

The Army suffered its worst loss of life in a single day in Northern Ireland for almost two years yesterday when four soldiers were killed in an IRA land-mine.

For the Ulster Defence Regiment, of which all four victims were members, it was one of the biggest reverses in its 20-year history, rivalled only by the loss of four men in a similar attack near Omagh in Co Tyrone in July 1983.

The Prime Minister last night expressed revulsion at the killing and asked the Irish Republic to support an all-out effort to defeat terrorism.

The bombing happened shortly before 8am as a two-vehicle UDR patrol moved along the Ballydugan road, about two miles outside Downpatrick through the rolling hills of South Down.

Members of the IRA's South Down brigade, who Continued on page 20, col 4

Tests dropped for 7-year-olds

The Government, announcing a major shift in its education reforms, said compulsory testing will not be required for seven-year-olds in technology, history and geography.

It had always been understood that testing would be compulsory at seven, 11 and 14, in all ten National Curriculum subjects, but Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that he was planning to insist on compulsory testing only in maths, science and English for seven-year-olds and was considering similar changes for 11-year-olds to reduce the burden on teachers.

Page 5

Arms confusion

Withdrawal of Soviet arms control concessions by Mr Edward Shevardnadze in last week's Washington visit has sent US negotiators back to the drawing boards.

Page 7

Joy in Nepal

Thousands of Nepalese took to the streets to celebrate the ending of a 30-year ban on political parties, as King Birendra faces the biggest threat to his rule.

Page 11

UK arts gap

Germany, France, The Netherlands, Sweden and Canada all spend more funds on the arts per head of population than Britain.

Page 16

Inflation fear

Factory gate prices rose by 5.6 per cent in the year to March, giving the Government an unwelcome start to a week likely to see an acceleration in retail price inflation.

Page 21

Blake first

Peter Blake, on Steinlager 2, the New Zealand yacht, won his fifth stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race, Fisher & Paykel and British entrant Rothmans were second and third.

Page 40

Police suspect arson in Irish Sea ferry fire

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

POLICE in Wales yesterday launched a criminal inquiry into the fire on board the Irish Sea ferry Noronua, in which one man died, after detectives said it could have been the work of a "copycat" arsonist.

The incident occurred at midnight on Sunday, 24 hours after a fire broke out on board the Norwegian-owned ferry, the Scandinavian Star, in which up to 170 are now feared dead. Swedish police believe that may also have been started deliberately.

A Noronua crewman reported smoke emerging from a block of unoccupied cabins,

two hours after the 9,000-tonne vessel left Pembroke Dock on its four-hour crossing to Rosslare in the Irish Republic, carrying more than 200 passengers and 78 crew.

After three RAF helicopters air-lifted ashore eight passengers suffering from smoke inhalation and cuts, Captain John Rimmington, the ship's master, turned the vessel back to Pembroke, escorted by lifeboats. It was met by ambulances who took additional casualties to hospital in Haverfordwest.

Safety call, page 4

New York critics lose little love on 'Aspects'

From Charles Bremner, New York



ALL but one of New York's theatre critics wielded their axes on *Aspects of Love* after its Broadway opening yesterday, lacerating Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical with a glee that, to some in the composer's camp, smacked of anti-British prejudice.

"It generates about as much heated passion as a visit to the bank," wrote Frank Rich, the all-powerful reviewer of *The New York Times*, whose invective has earned him the nickname the "Butcher of Broadway".

"This time the composer's usual Pucciniisms have been supplanted by a naked (Stephen) Sondheim envy," Rich said amid a rush of ridicule that compared the show to "Caucasian-er Romanians", held it to be "stranded in musical farceplay", and as erotic as the

"austerity of Margaret Thatcher's Britain". *Aspects* was "in most desperate need of roller skates", he concluded.

Comment from the *Daily News*, *Newsday* and *The Washington Post* was a little less devastating. *Aspects*, which is directed by Mr Trevor Nunn, "is a relentless, heartless attempt to create another hit", sniffed Howard Kissel in the *News*. "Lloyd Webber's biggest miscalculation," said *Newsday*.

That view, however, contrasted with a glowing report by the British-born Clive Barnes in the *New York Post*, who called it a lovely musical that was "easily the best currently on Broadway". Critics from *Time*, *Newsweek* and other national publications also liked it.

*Time*, for example, called the show haunting and praised the "cunning naivete" of the score - a far cry from the New York newspaper critics' view that it was trite and plagiarized. The musical

was "worth every cent" of its \$55 (£33) ticket price, *Time* said.

Lloyd Webber's entourage dismissed the scorn as fully expected, given the widespread resentment in New York of the extraordinary commercial success of his and other British shows. *Aspects of Love*, which enjoyed mixed reviews in London, has earned £7.5 million in advance bookings on Broadway. *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera* are still drawing packed houses, and six Lloyd Webber productions are playing elsewhere in America and Canada.

"Actually we're rather pleased," said Mr Peter Brown, the composer's spokesman, after Lloyd Webber and cast - almost all from the London production - celebrated into the small hours at the Rainbow Room atop the Rockefeller Centre. "If this was a political poll we would say we were carrying the country but losing the city," he said.

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INDEX

Arts	16
Business	21-24
Court & social	14
Information	18
Law Report	32
Leading articles	13
Legal	32-33
Letters	13
Obituary	14
Sport	35-40
TV & Radio	19

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## FORD INVESTMENT

# Unofficial strikes and supply fears drive cash away

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

MONTHS of warnings came suddenly true for union leaders yesterday when Ford cut off investment to its engine plant at Bridgend.

Mr John Hougham, Ford's director of personnel, had said in February that wildcat strikes costing £10 million a day would "affect the attitudes of the people who make decisions" on investment.

Some of those key decision makers were in the huge Ford of Europe conglomerate in West Germany, Spain and Belgium who would be relying on Britain as an essential supplier of engines and other components.

When the consequences of the unofficial action at Halewood affected production in Genk, Belgium, Britain could not be allowed to be the key centre for 70 per cent of the group's engine production.

More than that, the decision to take £225 million worth of investment to West Germany,

one of the company's highest cost production centres, was also seen as a rap over the knuckles for unions displaying more power at a time when Ford is fighting for its place as market leader in Britain and as one of Europe's strongest manufacturers.

Ford has two years to sort out its British production plants before the Japanese open their factories in the UK with a potential output of 500,000 cars a year.

Most of the output from Nissan, Honda and Toyota, spending more than £1.5 billion between them in new manufacturing capacity, is destined for export to Europe, but those sales will still have to be underpinned by a solid base in Britain.

A resurgent General Motors, through Vauxhall in the UK, and Rover, with its link with Honda of Japan, are putting more pressure than ever on Ford. Ford is still

investing about £2.2 billion in its British facilities over the next five years but poor efficiency at its main site at Dagenham, which makes Sierras and Fiestas, plus uneven quality performance has offset the benefits of investing in a low-wage business which is beset by industrial relations problems.

The Sierra will be transferred to Belgium this summer — and now Bridgend's role will be curtailed.

Unions say Bridgend, not regarded as a traditional hotbed of industrial unrest, was an easy target because cheques for the second phase of investment in the Zeta engine project were still to be cashed.

Mr Jimmy Airrie, secretary of the Ford joint negotiating committee, said: "This is a clear signal that Ford regards itself as above national considerations and as a multinational can move investment to where it likes throughout the European Community."

"We accept it is a rap on the knuckles, but it is a decision which fails to address the problems that Britain faces and the huge leaps in productivity which have been made here."

However the company still has to tackle industrial relations problems which stem from the fact that its 32,000 manual workers in Britain are becoming increasingly jealous of their counterparts in West Germany, where Cologne will win the second phase of the Zeta engine project. Union figures show West German assembly line staff work on average 38 days a year less than those in Britain while earning £160 a week more.

Yet Ford profits in Britain are expected to have topped more than £700 million last year and unions say this country is the most profitable. Ford emphasized last night that it had to secure supplies from not only industrial disputes within its own organization, but also among seamen running ferries and even from the weather.

"Our revised powertrain requirements would have resulted in too great a percentage of engines being sourced from Britain, particularly in the light of the unreliability of supply we have experienced in our British plants in recent years," the company said.

## Child's view of mysteries of Passover



Rabbi Rachamin Goodman teaching young Birmingham children how to make matza bread, essential for the annual Passover celebrations

## Unions demand rises up to 18%

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

THE Government faces further wage-led inflation pressure this week when union leaders representing 600,000 workers demand pay increases of up to 18 per cent.

Warnings by Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, that high wage claims could result in job losses are being ignored by unions which blame Government policies for rising costs.

Today, leaders of more than 100,000 British Rail staff will tell management they expect far more than the 8 per cent which has been offered.

Tomorrow, leaders of more than 500,000 town hall staff will demand flat rate increases of £1,500, representing rises up to 18 per cent.

Union negotiators are making it clear that the 10.2 per cent pay settlement achieved by Ford car workers is the "going rate". They are also increasingly citing the poll tax as an additional inflationary factor in pay claims. Last

night, Mr Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said: "Against a background of official forecasts predicting inflation at 9 per cent and above, BR must make a significant improvement in its offer to reach a settlement."

He said: "BR's statements about its difficult financial position cut little ice with railway workers. Too often BR finds itself in the dilemma of having to shout loud about its financial success to please its political masters and at the same time argue that it really isn't as good as it looks."

The determination of the National and Local Government Officers' Association to achieve the £1,500 flat rate increase was strengthened yesterday by a report from the Low Pay Unit which showed that four in 10 of town hall workers earn less than the Council of Europe's "decency threshold".

Nalco estimates that 250,000 of its members earn £8,000 a year or less.

However the company still has to tackle industrial relations problems which stem from the fact that its 32,000 manual workers in Britain are becoming increasingly jealous of their counterparts in West Germany, where Cologne will win the second phase of the Zeta engine project. Union figures show West German assembly line staff work on average 38 days a year less than those in Britain while earning £160 a week more.

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## Widow ill with grief, court told

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A WIDOW who became ill with grief after losing two of her three children and a grandchild in the 1987 King's Cross fire yesterday asked the High Court to allow her claim for exemplary damages against London Regional Transport and London Underground to be heard by a jury.

Mrs Savitree Singh, aged 52, of Walthamstow, East London, saw the tragic events, in which 31 died, unfold on television while waiting for her son and daughter, both 23, and her seven-year-old grandson to return from visiting another grandchild in the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

Mrs Singh — who expects to receive compensatory damages following LRT's admissions — has taken the rare step of applying for a jury trial and seeking exemplary damages because of the profound effect of the disaster upon her.

The hearing continues.

## Computer error closed jet's throttles in flight

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A ROGUE computer closed the throttles on all four engines of new British Airways Boeing 747 jumbo jets on six separate occasions, forcing pilots to over-ride the auto-pilot and restore full power in order to maintain height and speed.

The 747-400 is the latest long-range version of the jumbo and is regarded by airlines as the pride of their fleets. Since it was introduced last year, however, it has been plagued by a series of computer problems which have forced Boeing to set up a task force to sort out the snags.

The closure of the throttles is one of the most serious problems reported and is being investigated by the Civil Aviation Authority in Britain and the US Federal Aviation Administration.

The six incidents on British Airways jets occurred when the aircraft was near the top of its climb and approaching cruise altitude. The computer which controls the flight automatically "thought" that leading edge slats in the wings had

been deployed and cut power by closing the throttles on all four engines to idle.

In each case the crew realized what was happening when they saw the throttles closing, and over-rode the computer to put on full power.

Boeing and British Airways insisted last night that the safety of the aircraft was not affected and that the problem had been overcome with the installation of new software. Within the last few weeks, they said, the 747-400 had achieved a 100 per cent technical reliability rate.

The incidents occurred between October and February and led to an investigation of the software in the auto-pilot. It was discovered that a tiny printed circuit "logic card" was giving out spurious information and, as it was linked to the controls, ordered the closure of the throttles.

Several other airlines have reported similar problems and some have told Boeing that the same computer wrongly insisted that the undercarriage

had been lowered. That, too, led to throttles being closed automatically.

The incidents have alarmed pilots, now meeting in Washington, who have discussed the growing number of complaints about inaccurate computer warnings.

"Aircraft now rely so much on computers that the growing number of incidents about software malfunctions are becoming of growing concern," said one delegate. "We need to be certain that the computers are totally reliable and shall be discussing the implications of these and other failures in the near future."

He said pilots would underline the need for manufacturers and airlines not only to ensure that their software was of the highest possible standard, but also that the pilot was able to over-ride the computer in an emergency.

Boeing has always insisted that the pilot should have the last say and has safeguards to ensure that the computer can not take over in an emergency.

## Tories 'ducking poll tax battle'

By Nicholas Wood  
Political Correspondent

TORY activists have ducked a battle over the community charge. Labour claimed yesterday from its analysis of nominations for the local government elections next month.

In more than half the 18 Labour-run councils charge-capped by the Government, the Conservatives are badly under strength, the Opposition said.

For instance, 12 out of the 22 seats vacant in Barnsley are not being contested by Tories.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said that the unpopularity of the poll tax was deterring Tory party members from standing for election.

A Conservative Central Office spokesman said the Tories were fighting more seats this year than in 1986 when they were last contested, and that the number of Tory candidates in Barnsley was up from three to 11.

Labour said that in 11 charge-capped authorities, the Tories had failed to field a candidate in 73 out of the 347 seats being contested.

The Prime Minister will not be taking a direct part in campaigning for the 5,000 seats that fall vacant on May 3 but there will be a "substantial contribution" from ministers.

Mr Baker, Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment and Mr David Hunt, the Minister of State for Local Government, have regional tours planned for next week. Mr Norman Tebbit and Mr Michael Heseltine, have also been asked to lend a hand. Mr Tebbit is also taking part in a radio programme on the London borough elections.

Labour is keeping under wraps final details of its campaign to be launched next week. However, a programme of local visits and press conference appearances has been drawn up for Mr Kinnock, who has already been heavily involved in publicity aimed at the London part of the local elections.

Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, and Mr Bryan Gould, the chief environment spokesman, will bear the brunt of the Labour effort but other shadow cabinet members will be involved.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, has a busy schedule of visits, taking him to most parts of the country before polling day. Visits to Milton Keynes, Stockport, the North-east, the SLD boroughs of Richmond and Sutton in London, the South-west, the South-east and Scotland are on his provisional itinerary.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, is still finalizing his programme, but he has arranged a number of visits, including one to the North-east which will be on April 30.

## Many ages of fantasy from cyclops to the hobbit

By Philip Howard

FROM airy-footed hobbits to humourless talking rabbits, we think of fantasy as a decadent modern craze. But, like most of our modern culture, its roots run deep.

At the annual general meeting of the Classical Association, which opened at the University of Kent at Canterbury yesterday, Dr Graham Anderson of Kent University entertainingly examined the birth of fantasy as a genre of Greek and Latin literature.

In many ways it was more sophisticated and imaginative than our modern ETs and little green

men with wickerwork heads. For instance, what strip cartoon today would dare to invent a one-man combination of Common Market, Glasnost and Perestroika popping up in the middle of a real war, or fantastic cities with absurd constitutions, peopled by birds who are able to drive away poll tax administrators, and negotiate with Mrs Thatcher, complete with parasol?

As with most genres of western literature, it all started with Homer. Ancient academic critics complained. Longinus said that with the cyclops and other fantasies of the *Odyssey*, "we see the ebbing of Homer's greatness as he wanders in

the realms of the fabulous and the incredible". But there is fantasy also in the day to day din of battle of the *Iliad*, when Achilles sights the River Scamander, or with the description of the Chimera in the Bellerophon story.

Dr Anderson suggested that ancient literary editors disapproved of fantasy not because of their passion for realism, but because of a regard for the sense of propriety that so deeply imbues the Hellenistic and subsequent ages.

Athenian Old Comedy with Aristophanes and others of the lost likely lads was the real nursery of our fantasy. But you do not have to

look far to find fantasy everywhere in ancient literature, even in improbable places. For example, in Roman elegy, which we think of as the first vehicle in our literature for the private feelings of lovers, we suddenly run into doors that talk, and a force of Cupid police who direct a wandering lover back to his mistress's house.

In *Ars Poetica*, his odd guide to scribbles, Horace says of fantasy "I don't believe it, and I don't like it." But in his Odes, Horace himself, the plump and bald little club man, fantasizes improbably that he is turning into a swan, with feathers sprouting in all sorts of uncomfort-

able places. In satire, we may think the poet is castigating the follies and wickedness of the way his contemporaries lived then in every day Rome. But then, suddenly we encounter a statue of Priapus that breaks wind in the night, to frighten two witches gathering accessories for the ghoulish experiments.

Dr Anderson found fantasy present in the most unlikely places, from the ancient political satirists to pedagogic school exercises in rhetoric. In spite of the disapproval of dour academics down the ages, fantasy turns out to be a very old and very pervasive ingredient of western literature.

## Home-sale costs have risen

The cost of selling a home has gone up in the last year, largely because of increased fees by estate agents, while the cost of buying is slightly lower, the Woolwich Building Society says in its annual cost of moving survey published today (Christopher Warman writes).

In England and Wales the average estate agent's fee has risen to nearly 2.5 per cent of the selling price, compared with last year's figure of 1.9 per cent.

For a £100,000 property the average cost of selling is now £2,871, £378 more than in 1989. The cost of buying a £100,000 home is £40 less, at £1,855, compared with last year, reflecting increased competition for conveyancing and furniture removal.

### Beetle threat

Colorado beetles, which can devastate potato crops, have made their first appearance of the year in England and Wales on vegetables imported from the Continent. Officials are confident however that the threat from the beetle is under control. No breeding colonies have been found in Britain since 1977.

### Girl sues father

Danielle Hayden, aged 11, yesterday sued her father Terry in the High Court over the death of her mother Lynda in a road crash in 1983. The girl, who lives with her father, is unaware of the case brought on her behalf by Mrs Ruby Ford, her maternal grandmother and her legal representative. The case continues.

### Couple missing

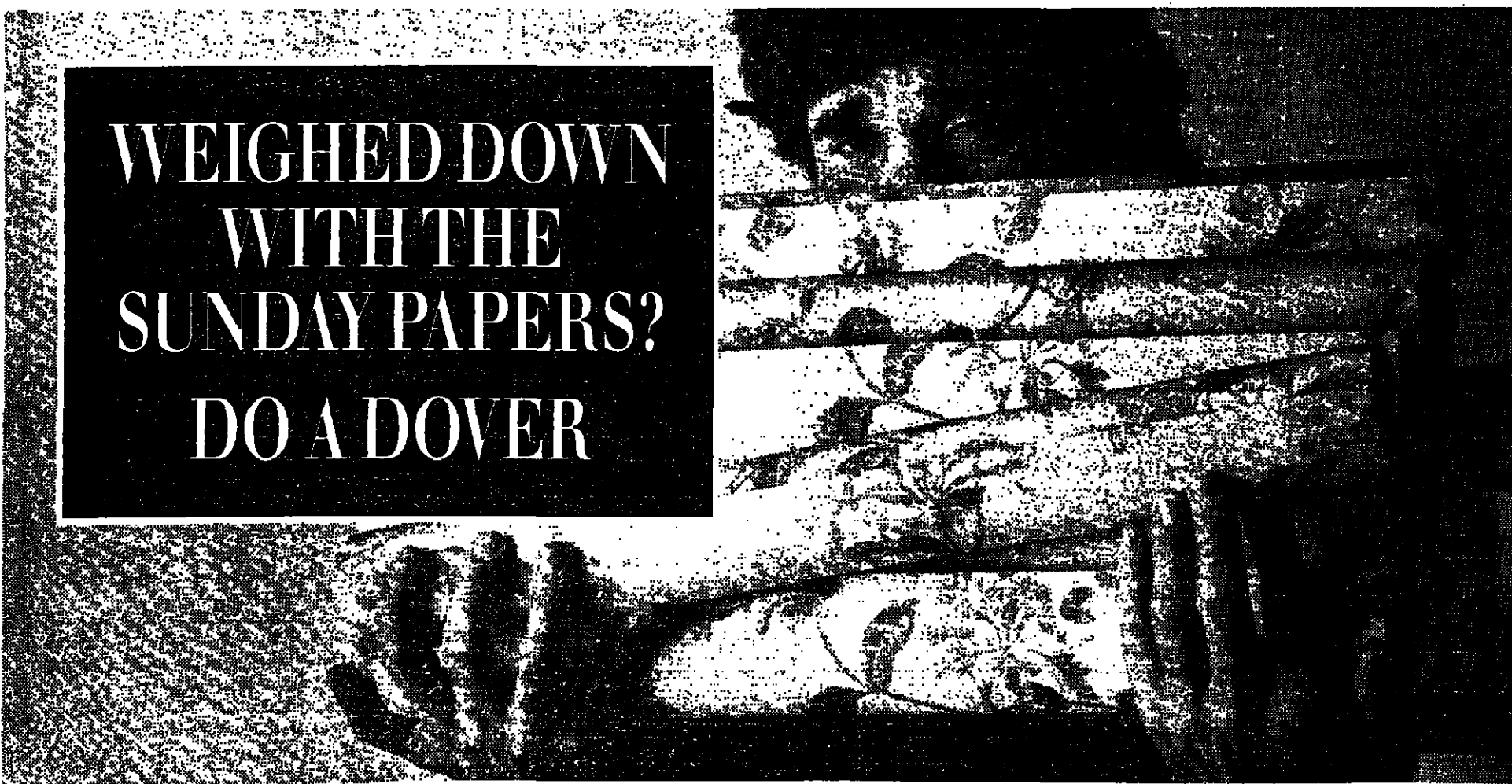
Concern was growing last night for Mr Michael Cole and his wife Catherine, in their mid-50s, who set out for a walk from the Popple Sands youth hostel in Pembrokeshire on Saturday morning and have not been heard from since.

### Sky in schools

Sky Television should be available to half a million school pupils by the autumn. The satellite education project, specifically designed to support the National Curriculum, will begin with a pilot scheme involving 70 schools.



Mr Tebbit: Out to help win local council votes



## The shortest route to a short break abroad



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## LONDON DRUGS CONFERENCE

# Plea for united front to stem cocaine imports

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

EUROPEAN seizures of cocaine have reached 4,000 kilos in the first quarter of 1990 compared with a record 6,300 kilos for the whole of last year, the World Drugs Summit in London was told yesterday.

Opening the debate on the threat from cocaine, one of the two main themes of the summit, Signor Antonio Gava, the Italian Minister of the Interior, said the rate of growth in the cocaine boom had no equal among any criminal or social phenomena.

One solution, he suggested, lay in greater control of the chemicals which have to be imported by South American laboratories refining the coca leaves. A group of EC experts was drawing up proposals for controls to be disclosed next month.

The community is also preparing guidance for member states on controlling money-laundering and tap-

ping the wealth that goes back to the traffickers.

Signor Gava said the latest Interpol figures demonstrate the speed with which cocaine has taken hold since 1986, when the total seizure was 1,500 kilos. The carrels, he said, were moving into Europe and processing plants had been found in Spain, West Germany, France and Italy.

They were also attempting to build up links with organized crime in Europe and exploit large communities of South Americans who may be potential traffickers and couriers.

Signor Gava spoke of the "frightening" amount of cocaine being produced each year, estimated at 700 to 800 tons. That figure was probably an underestimate since no one knew the production volume of the hidden plantations among the Amazonian rainforests along the Colom-

bian border. The carrels were not only organizing ever-greater crops of cocaine, but also destroying the forest. Last year 20,000 hectares of trees were felled.

Part of the impetus for the assault on Europe lay in the saturation of the American market. In 1988, the Iberian peninsula accounted for half of all cocaine found coming into Europe, but that dropped to 30 per cent last year after a Spanish crackdown. Traffickers then made greater use of West Germany, France, The Netherlands and the UK.

Last year, the Spanish arrested 2,000 people from 70 countries for cocaine smuggling. There was now evidence that the carrels were bringing large shipments into Europe via the Middle East.

The Americans have forecast an increase in the appearance of crack, a cocaine derivative, but Signor Gava

said that had yet to appear in large amounts. The total seizure last year, according to Interpol, was 660g.

A powerful United Nations agency is needed to coordinate and guide the global struggle against drug abuse, Signor Virgilio Barco, the President of Colombia, told the summit.

Signor Barco, who has armed police protection throughout his visit to Britain, said: "This is a fight in which multilateral action is the most appropriate."

It was high time the effort put into fighting drugs was proportionate to the gravity of the situation. "If we regard the drug problem as the greatest calamity of our age and as one of the most serious threats - if not the most serious - the resources and tools we use should reflect this."

He praised Mrs Margaret Thatcher's initiative in setting up the summit and the blend of policies she advocated, including both reducing the demand for drugs and also combating the traffickers.

Signor Barco said the war against drugs had only just started. The fight which Colombia had begun showed the drug barons were not invincible. "The drug barons are neither supported nor admired by the people and there is no desire for complicity about their vile activity. The myth that the drug barons are stronger than the state or society is only another legend."

Signor Barco continued: "The desire felt by those who think that we are engaged in an unwinnable or impossible battle is only the consequence of scepticism arising from the false assumption that for years we have been availing ourselves of all possible resources on this fight and the framework of an appropriate strategy."

It is a fact, he said, that drugs marred people's lives, corroded values, degraded human beings, corrupted society, bred violence, destroyed the family and weakened the spirit of the nation. "Drugs betray our civilization."

Three East European countries are to join a West European drugs initiative, it was announced at the summit. Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia are to join the Pompidou group, which includes 20 West European countries.

Leading article, page 13

## Waddington warning of tough remedies

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

A VANILLA Home Office folder marked "Drugs", now lying in the Prime Minister's in-tray is unlikely to reduce the problems facing her.

The message from the report's author, Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, is that drugs misuse in Britain is likely to worsen and that difficult counter-measures may be needed to save the nation from the kind of narcotics epidemic that has struck the United States.

The report stems from the drugs fact-finding visit Mr Waddington made to the US in February. He was clearly moved by what he saw.

Superficially, the US problem dwarfs Britain's almost into irrelevance. In 1989 more than 75,000 kg of cocaine, the most widely abused class 1 drug, were seized in the US, while more than one million Americans were arrested for drugs offences.

The existing British problem is small in comparison. However, for several reasons there are grounds for anxiety. First, the number of registered addicts, one of the surer ways to measure misuse, rose by 17 per cent last year to a record

14,785 cases, though the overall addict population could now be as high as 150,000.

Other measures are less reliable. However, Customs seized 424kg of cocaine and 331.5kg of heroin last year - increases, respectively, of 49 per cent and 44 per cent on the 1988 figures.

A further possible sign of gathering storm-clouds is police seizures of "crack", the smokeable cocaine refinement which has proved so popular in the US.

Just 139 seizures were made last year, a total which police in New York can exceed in a few days. But as only 27 consignments were seized in 1988 and 12 the year before, the upward curve is starting to look geometric.

A kilo of cocaine sells for about \$16,500 (£9,763) in New York but can make three times that amount in London. However, if the same consignment is converted into "crack" the gross turnover achievable in London could be as high as £148,000.

Some drugs experts fear the traditional popularity of chemically produced stimulants among British misusers

may make Britons particularly vulnerable to the spread of "ice", the latest and most deadly illicit drug to appear in the US.

A methamphetamine, it can cause irreparable physical damage to users in days.

Radical new government responses are unlikely. Mr Waddington believes Britain's well-established anti-drugs strategy, which combines rigorous law enforcement, health education and foreign aid designed to help producer countries grow alternative crops, reflects the basic complexity of the problem.

Preventive activity could be stepped up in schools. Most education authorities already provide some warnings about drug misuse but the campaigns are far smaller than in the US, where tens of thousands of children begin the school day by chanting anti-drugs slogans.

Mr Waddington would like to see uniformed policemen play - as they do in the US - a direct role in spreading the gospel by giving talks in schools and advising pupils on how to say "no" in practical situations.

## Conference sketch

## High on a pedestal of hot air and hype

THE first law of political pantomime is that every fatuous "initiative" should spawn at least two more, of equal fatuity. The Prime Minister's speech to her UN drugs conference yesterday spawned nine, each more specious than the last. It was a deserved success.

From the outset, the auspices were good. Your correspondent knows two unerring signs that an occasion will lack substance. One is the appearance of women in hats. The other is the appearance of common nouns in capital letters. At "The World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat", hats would have been superfluous.

At Westminster, the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre rose, sun-kissed and magnificent, from a dark sea of purring black Mercedes cars. On their bonnets tinpot flags fluttered, while number plates like VEN 1 proclaimed their authority.

This was the class the little people in Africa call the *wabenzi* - the Mercedes Benz people: the people of which any good Third World jamboree consists: the rich from poor nations, come to blame the poor from rich nations.

It would have been helpful if the government had decorated the entrance with drug-addicted English delinquents, but they were not invited.

I entered. Arrangements for

the world's press were sumptuous: banks of electric typewriters, rows of telephone kiosks and advance copies in every language of all speeches; while, upstairs in the "Press Lounge" designer-sofas and tables with pink linen table cloths welcomed us.

I sipped my coffee, surveyed an rich array of cookies, took 15 and watched fascinated as a milk-dispensing machine over-filled a jug and dispensed milk on to the floor to the laughter of the staff. How wide would have been the eyes of the hungry cocaine-growing peasants I know in Bolivia!

A gallery had been arranged so that the media could see and photograph the *wabenzi* coming in - or, as my handbook said: "Arrivée des délégués et des personages de marque". And of course the personage of the greatest imaginable marque was Mrs Thatcher herself, in shimmering blue and pearls.

Over here, Mrs Thatcher, look this way! "Snap, flash, click, pop..." "Shake hands again, Prime Minister, for the cameras!" Encircled by corded rope in mid-foyer (where you might once have placed an extravagant display of flowers) was an island of tripods and cameramen, waving like tropical palms.

Within the hall, a brightly-lit podium faced a sea of plump, expectant black, brown and white faces framed

with little headphones. Lights dimmed. The AutoCue glasses glowed cool blue in the dark. All at once a taped disco-style fanfare filled the hall. And hidden projectors beamed a picture of the UN flag tangled up with the Union Jack. A ripple of applause signalled the entrance of the Great Ones. The lights came up.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, barked a brief welcome. Recently, his analysis of rioting as due to "sheer wickedness" has advanced criminological thinking some way: and we had hoped for more.

That came from the Prime Minister, or, rather, her AutoCue machine: a cornucopia of initiatives. There was the "Pompidou Group", "Crimestoppers", "Drug Command" and "Crop Substitution". There was a new charity, "Business Against Drugs" ("B.A.D.") money for Colombia (ha!) and a new UK "Taskforce" to advise foreigners how to "reduce demand for drugs" in their own countries (no joke). There was a protocol with Finland.

Mrs Thatcher once spurned the politician's addiction to hot-air summery. No longer. If "initiatives" do for the PM what a snuff of cocaine does for some of her citizens, then on yesterday's showing, this woman needs help.

Matthew Parris

## Wartime battle call relived

STAFF who manned a Battle of Britain Ops Room met up again with wartime pilots to relive old memories in a reconstruction of their original headquarters yesterday.

The Operations Room was opened at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire, once a vital RAF base in the fight for control of the skies.

It has taken the museum more than two years to reconstruct the Ops Room - which directed fighters to the enemy.

Where the museum was not able to trace original equipment, it instead had made exact replicas of telephones, radios, charts, switchboards and headsets.

Women, as young as 18 years old played the vital role of plotters, tracking movements of enemy and allied fighter planes across the skies.

The reconstruction is to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain being celebrated this year.

Mr Stephen Woolford, head of education exhibitions at Duxford, said the museum was



The original Ops Room in Duxford in 1940 (below). Mrs Jean Mills, above left, and Mrs Joan Porter returned to their posts to admire the restoration 50 years on

working on a soundtrack to bring the Ops Room "to life".

He said: "We used archive material as well as information from the people who worked here who we managed to trace. We worked in close liaison with them to find out what the room looked like."

"The vital role of the operations room is often overlooked - without it an RAF victory in the Battle of Britain would have been unlikely."

For Mr Ralph Ambrose, a

telephone and radio operator, the museum piece brought back happy memories.

He worked at Duxford between August and December 1940 passing information from a controller to pilots in the air.

"We were all very young at the time and it was tremendously exciting. But we had no idea how important a role we were playing," Mr Ambrose, aged 68, said.

For Mrs Jean Mills, aged

69, from London, who worked in the Ops Room as a WAAF plotter, the memories were still vivid.

"It was so exciting for us. Because of the careless whisperers warning we couldn't even tell our families what we were working on."

Spitfire pilot Wing Commander Gordon Sinclair, from Salisbury, Wiltshire, said the Battle of Britain would have been lost without the team in the Ops Room.

## Most 'prefer to buy with cash'

By Tom Giles

Despite the proliferation of credit, debit and store cards, most people still prefer to pay for a majority of consumer goods and services in cash, according to a new survey.

From electricity bills, community charge and rate payments to food, drink and holidays, the survey *Cash in the UK*, by MORI and Western Union Consumer Services, reveals that high interest charges are making many people distrust credit and pay in cash. Nearly three quarters of about 2,000 people aged over 15 surveyed across Britain said they used cash to pay for clothes, petrol and meals in restaurants.

The proportion using cash rose to 83 per cent for food generally, 94 per cent for public transport and 97 per cent for cinema tickets.

Perhaps more surprisingly, MORI found that nearly two-thirds used cash to pay for small electrical goods, such as toasters, kettles or irons, and that nearly half paid cash for car repairs and servicing.

In addition, cash transactions were used by 44 per cent for holidays, by 40 per cent for electricity and gas bills and by 60 per cent for rent.

Half those surveyed said they liked using cash because it "put them in control" and left them "knowing where they stood financially," while nearly a quarter appreciated it did not incur "debt, comebacks, or interest charges".

"There seems to be a fear of

getting into debt and losing control of the finances, which is one reason why people use cash when it is available," MORI's spokeswoman, Helen Lancaster, said. "The findings seem to point to interest rates and the cost of debt making people analyse their ways of spending."

The survey noted an overall increase in the number of people with a bank current account and cheque book - 68 per cent, compared to 67 per cent in 1987 - and in those holding credit cards, up from 35 to 39 per cent over the same period.

Just over half held a building society savings account, down five per cent on 1987. But MORI said these findings would not detract from the future importance of cash, and added that figures still pointed to a similarly high level of cash transactions in the future.

The pawnbrokers have returned to Leamington Spa, one of the country's most affluent towns (Robin Young writes).

Britain's newest pawnbroker's shop opened yesterday in the gracious streets of a Warwickshire town which epitomizes the Conservative heartland. It is the first spot cash lending service in Leamington since the last pawnbrokers there closed down 37 years ago for lack of custom.

Cash in the UK (Western Union Consumer Services/MORI, Melbury House, 1 Bastwick Street, London EC1V 3PH)

## Pregnant woman 'hit by priest'

A ROMAN Catholic priest attacked a pregnant woman during an anti-abortion demonstration outside a nursing home, a court was told yesterday.

Mrs Tracey Allsop said she had recently returned to work as a nursing home manager after a threatened miscarriage when she was thrown to the ground by James Morrow, the priest, and by Barry Norman and Tasmin Geach.

Birmingham Crown Court was told the three pushed Mrs Allsop to the ground, even though she said she was pregnant, as she tried to rescue a patient. All three deny assault causing actual bodily harm.

Mr Timothy Raggart, for the prosecution, said a group of demonstrators had gathered outside the Calthorpe Nursing Home in Birmingham on November 18, 1989.

He said: "They came to Birmingham for a very specific reason."

"There are probably few more emotive subjects than abortion, and people feel very strongly about it. But however strong these feelings, there is no justification for breaking the law." He said the demonstrators tried to prevent patients entering the private nursing home.

He said: "The demonstration was organized by Father Morrow outside the nursing home. The defendants took it upon themselves to enter the property and besiege it." The trial continues.

## Parish battle over 'wobbly' pulpit remains in balance

By Lin Jenkins

A DISPUTE over the future of a reputedly wobbly 1866 stone pulpit that has split a small South Yorkshire parish remained unresolved after a Consistory Court hearing yesterday.

Parishioners, who see the pulpit as an essential part of All Saints' Church, Barton, near Barnsley, have challenged the decision of the Rev Seymour McCarragher and the parochial church council to remove it.

At a well-attended hearing in the church yesterday, Mr McCarragher said the pulpit was unstable and seldom used. It obscured the altar and brides' mothers had complained that they could not see their daughters during part of the marriage ceremony. He added: "It is not in keeping with the Tudor church."

Mr Ronald Bithcliffe, aged 78, a parishioner who has been attending services for 50 years, disagreed.

"It is all a fallacy that people can't see the Eucharist. There is lots of room in this church for people to move."

"What does he propose doing with it? Breaking it up or what? It is bordering on desecration to me."

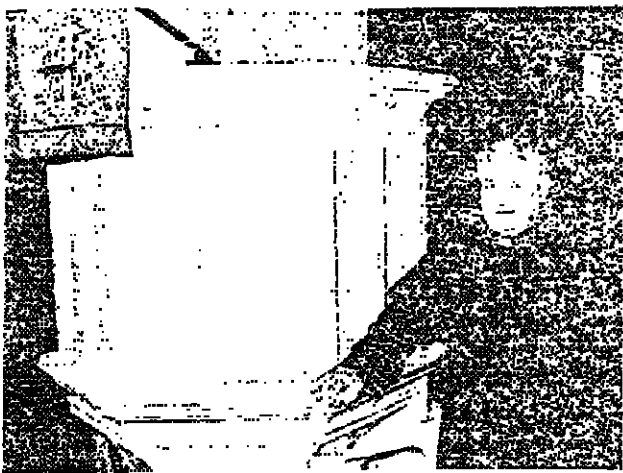
It is not the first time Mr McCarragher has clashed with some of his flock. Last November he accused one of his parishioners of tipping off the police when he was banned for drink-driving.

On this occasion however there was a more peaceable outcome. Mr George Graham, QC, chancellor of the diocese of Wakefield, adjourned the case for four years.

He said the vicar had been premature in seeking to move the pulpit without knowing exactly what would replace it. Once the cost and design for a sufficiently worthy replacement were known, he would be able to come to a conclusion.

After the hearing Mr McCarragher described the decision as fair and said he would seek a new design and begin fund raising.

The objectors were also cheered. Mrs Mary Skelley said: "We will organize ourselves better next time. The way this vicar works in ignoring our views is very unpopular. So what if the pulpit is not Tudor, a new one would not be either, and it is the one we know."



Mr McCarragher and the pulpit he wants to replace

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# Muslims seek plea to Lords after Rushdie case fails

By Michael Horsnell

THE LEGAL campaign by Muslim activists to enforce prosecution under the blasphemy laws of Salman Rushdie and his publishers for his novel, *The Satanic Verses*, failed yesterday when the High Court dismissed their plea.

The court refused to quash a decision of Sir David Hopkin, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, not to issue summonses against the award-winning writer and Viking Penguin, the book's publisher.

Last night, Mr Rushdie welcomed the court's ruling and called for the "anachronistic" blasphemy law to be abolished. "I regret that our blasphemy law discriminates between religions as well as discriminating against humanists and non-believers," he said in a statement.

In a reserved judgement Lord Justice Watkins had ruled that the magistrate was correct in holding that the common law of blasphemy only protected Christianity.

Police kept a watch on Muslim sympathisers inside the court. There was a demonstration outside, but it passed without incident.

Mr Mohammad Yusuf Akhtar, a barrister and spokesman for the British Muslim Action Front, said after the hearing: "It is a bad day for the reputation of this country and

for justice, but by losing we have manifestly succeeded in exposing the inadequacy and discriminatory nature of British law."

The judgement was relayed to Mr Rushdie, who has been in hiding since Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran passed the death sentence on him on February 14 last year. However, the action front, which contended the law extended to the Koran and that the magistrate was wrong to refuse to issue summonses for "blasphemous libel and seditious libel under common law", said in court it would be seeking leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The front's application to quash the chief metropolitan magistrate's decision was brought by Mr Abdul Choudhury, its convener. It was claimed during a four-day hearing that the publication of the book was responsible for 30 deaths during demonstrations in India and Pakistan — an allegation denied by the author and Viking Penguin.

Lord Justice Watkins told the court that where the law was clear it was not the proper function of the courts to extend it, but the task of Parliament. Even if the courts had such power, widening the law of blasphemy would pose insuperable problems and would be likely to do more harm than good. Mr Ali

Azhar, said he had profound respect for the court's wisdom, but the judgement would "sadden many millions of hearts in this country".

Mr Choudhury said he was disappointed by the decision which was "not too bad, but not too good".

Asked where the money was coming from for a possible appeal, he said "from Allah".

Lord Justice Watkins said it appeared that the case was the first in which a "would-be prosecutor has claimed that the offence of blasphemy is applicable to religions other than Christianity".

The court had been "called upon to examine that claim in the setting of a much changed world and of a society in this country which now contains many adherents of religions other than Christianity".

However, the court was in no doubt that the law as it stood did not extend to religions other than Christianity.

After the decision, Mr Sher Azam, president of Bradford Council for Mosques, issued a warning that violence could again flare on the streets over the Rushdie issue.

Last summer, the book was burnt by protesters in Bradford. Penguin said: "We are naturally relieved by the decision."

Leading article, page 13

Law Report, page 32

# Keepers baffled by penguin's survival

PETER TREWICK



Miss Jean Harrison, bird keeper at the park, with 11-month-old Percy: his youth may explain his survival after the rest of the colony died

By Nicholas Watt

PERCY the penguin has baffled his keepers by becoming the only survivor of an unknown illness that has killed 21 penguins, including his parents, at an Oxfordshire wildlife park.

Percy, who will be one in May, was the youngest member of the colony, whose ages ranged up to 20, and it was

his youth that probably saved him. He has been kept in isolation away from the penguins' pool because Mr Colin Fountain, manager of the Cotswold Wildlife Park near Burford, Oxfordshire, said toxins from the pool may have caused the illness.

However he added: "We just don't know where it came from. It doesn't appear to be a virus but the post-mortems showed no obvious cause of

the deaths. We are checking the pool and experts are looking at the toxins." It could be something airborne, in the water, soil or diet, he said.

Percy will be moved to another enclosure in the next few days where he will be on show to the public but Mr Fountain said it might be another six months before he had any penguins for company.

The first penguins at the park struck

by the illness died last June after becoming lethargic and losing their appetite. In February seven were lost.

At the Tropical Bird Gardens in Somerset meanwhile the last of 14 penguins died last week. The symptoms appeared to be similar to those at the Cotswold Park. The park's vets contacted each other but at present do not think there is a connection.

# Minister eases test burden on primary pupils

By David Tytler, Education Editor

LEGALLY required testing of seven-year-olds in some National Curriculum subjects will be waived because it placed "an undue burden" on primary schools, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

Mr MacGregor said he would be prepared for teachers to carry out their own tests in technology, history and geography.

He would also consider relaxing tests for 11-year-olds but insisted that it would not lead to a drop in standards.

Statutory testing of seven-year-olds in English, mathematics and science will go ahead next year but schools will not be compelled to publish the results.

Parents will be allowed to see the results but schools will only have to publish the results at 11 and 14 from 1992.

# NUT call for black recruits

By David Tytler

MORE black people should be encouraged to teach in schools in England and Wales, the country's largest teachers' union said yesterday.

The National Union of Teachers wants the Government to encourage more black people into the classroom.

Its annual conference in Bournemouth next week will also be asked to approve a greater involvement of black people in the union's affairs and the setting up of an advisory body on equal opportunities for the ethnic minorities.

A union committee said there were too few black teachers in schools and many of them were given low status.

It was particularly concerned about control over appointments and promotions by school governing bodies.

The committee said: "The possibility for discrimination will be even greater if local authority guidance on equal opportunities is not heeded."

Governors should be made aware they may be financially liable for industrial tribunal cases if they do not take local education authority advice and breach the Race Relations Act. The committee said a survey by the Commission for Racial Equality showed that in eight local authorities with above average ethnic minority populations, less than 2 per cent of the teaching profession were from those minorities.

The survey also said 75 per cent of ethnic minority teachers felt racial discrimination had adversely affected their careers.

Unions were yesterday urged to increase efforts to tackle "widespread" racial discrimination suffered by black people in work.

The call came from the TUC, which has produced two new booklets making it clear that racial problems should be tackled by unions.

The minister's announcement suggests a general relaxation of legal testing requirements in other subjects.

He said arrangements for other subjects in the curriculum would be announced later but it seems likely for primary schools at least that they will only be bound to the three core subjects.

Mr MacGregor told the assembly of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association in Blackpool that the relaxation in the legal requirements would allow teachers to carry out simple tests to ensure that children had learned what they had been taught.

He said the changes were part of his plan to introduce the Government's education reforms at a reasonable pace.

"It would be right to simplify arrangements in order to ease the burden on primary school teachers... I am quite clear that simplifying the assessment arrangements must not entail any sacrifice of rigour."

Mr MacGregor said a report to be published by the school inspectors later this week on 100 primary schools showed that two thirds were making satisfactory or good progress towards introducing National Curriculum lessons in mathematics, English and science for pupils aged from five to seven.

He said the inspectors reported that topic work had improved significantly, more time was being given to science, testing was leading teachers to consider ways of improving their methods, and planning for mathematics lessons was more thorough and effective.

Mr MacGregor said he had asked the School Examinations and Assessment Council to advise him on the best way for teachers to carry out the informal tests.

He told teachers that the Government was still "some way off" from deciding the final arrangements for the compulsory testing of mathematics, English and science.

Assessment "must be manageable for teachers, because if it is unmanageable it will defeat its own purpose."

Last night Mr Jack Straw, Labour's front-bench education spokesman, said: "This seems a major climbdown. It is certainly a very major change in policy and to the spirit of the 1988 Education Reform Act which wanted everything to be tested."



Mr MacGregor: Reforms at reasonable pace

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# Democracy's dilemma: how to punish crimes of dictatorship

From Roger Boyes  
Budapest

COMMUNISM'S end probably began in Hungary last summer, when the coffin of Imre Nagy, the ill-fated Prime Minister during the 1956 uprising, was dug up from a grave simply marked "Plot 301" and reburied in Budapest's Heroes' Square along with five other rehabilitated politicians. Nagy was back in favour 31 years after his execution.

The execution of Nagy was a mistake. So was the execution of the 277 Hungarian workers shot or hanged for their part in the revolution of Bukharin, of Slansky, of Rajk, of a million less famous names wiped out in the Stalinist and immediately post-Stalinist years. All mistakes, officially admitted and regretted in the last three years. Who pays for them? Nobody.

Now Herr Erich Honecker, the disgraced East German leader, and Mr Todor Zhivkov, the former Bulgarian leader, are under arrest, awaiting trial that may never come.

Herr Honecker has already had charges of high treason dropped; soon, as so often before, the two former leaders will be regarded as little more than political embarrassments who can be

pensioned off. Yet the reports emerging about their rule in East Germany and Bulgaria should be enough to muster serious criminal cases against them.

This is a boom time for displaced dictators and their courtiers. Not only East European, but Latin-American leaders are living comfortably enough with their mistakes. The fact is that there is no thorough legal structure that can bring disgraced leaders to book for political crimes. The institution of amnesty protects the evil as well as the merely incompetent from any more complete version of justice.

Nikita Khrushchev, having unmasked Stalin's crimes against the Soviet people at the twentieth party congress, did not then pursue their perpetrators. The political savagery of General Franco went largely unpunished after his death. President Alfonsín declared the amnesty granted to the Argentine generals invalid, but few of the senior military figures in the junta were punished.

Amnesties formed part of every important peace treaty until the 20th century, a tradition interrupted by the Nuremberg trials, which seemed to create a kind of precedent for dealing with "crimes against humanity" as well

as war crimes. Yet it is the practice of amnesty that has prevailed, especially in Eastern Europe.

Hugo Grotius, the classic international lawyer, wanted amnesty (specifically the one declared in the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648) to have validity "because the peace would have no secure standing if the old grievances that caused the war were allowed to stay alive".

Yet a democratic order, replacing a tyranny, should be able to make more subtle distinctions. Giving immunity to political criminals may, indeed, protect internal security, but putting deposed leaders on trial sends a much more important signal: it is a commitment to a policy based on human rights and responsible government.

The rush to execute Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu in Romania was born out of this dilemma: a real trial would have disclosed facts that would fatally have exposed the Romanian revolution; an amnesty, or a negotiated exile, for the Ceausescus, equally, would have compromised the new leadership. Unable to resolve this dilemma, the revolutionary council resorted to a form of lynch law.

The problem is that democratic legal

structures are not adequately able to assess crimes committed under an undemocratic system.

Both Nazi war criminals and the political managers of the Stalinist era can plead that they obeyed the existing laws and "only obeyed orders". That has been enough to get some Securitate officers off the hook in Timisoara. A typical sample from the trial: Judge: Who told you to shoot at the people? General: It was an order from above. — Who signed the order? — It was an oral order. — Who told you then? — Nobody told me directly; it was passed down.

Sometimes, as in the trial of the murderers of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest in Poland, the prosecutor (trying to protect the status quo) chooses not to push the point of who issued orders for murder. Not revealing the name in public becomes part of the prisoner's plea bargaining. One of the murderers is already free, having benefited from an amnesty.

Communist transitions since the 1960s have spared deposed leaders. Mr Alexander Dubcek was allowed to become a forester, General Jaruzelski allowed Edward Giersek, the ousted party chief, to live as a pensioner in his big

Katowice villa and put only Mr Giersek's television chief, Maciej Szczepanski, in the dock. President Gorbachov has also allowed a large part of the Brezhnev bureaucracy to stay in place; only anything more elaborate would have undermined the legitimacy of the new leaders, since both General Jaruzelski and Mr Gorbachov were important figures in the discredited outgoing regimes. There is no reason, however, why the newly democratic governments of Eastern Europe should have been constrained in such a way.

The success of the Nuremberg trials, was that they were run by outsiders, by the victorious nations, and not by a nationally democratic German judiciary. That, too, was the weakness of Nuremberg. Its claim to universal justice was dulled by the papering over of Soviet war crimes, notably the execution of Polish officers in Katyn.

Moreover, the idea that punishing German crime was really a matter for the great powers discouraged the West German establishment from seeking out criminals in later years. The 1954 amnesty for non-capital war crime and the increasing difficulty of finding

reliable witnesses to wartime massacres has reduced the number of investigations to a trickle. But, as the proposed British war crimes legislation showed, Nuremberg at least created a framework for continuing pursuit.

By contrast, the ex-interrogators, jailers and executors of the Stalinist era are enjoying a sunny old age. Without a means to judge totalitarian crimes, the victims have no possibility of compensation. The whole of Eastern Europe is populated by the children of the victims. Most are not after financial damages but want a kind of truth-telling.

The rewriting of history by the new democracy is all very well, but for the victims it is a matter of adjusting their own biographies.

When the democratic elections of Eastern Europe have all been fought and won, then, the new governments should try to take over communist party and police archives. Here, in dusty files, are the secrets that could one day serve as prosecution material.

If nothing else, these files can inform the historians as they rewrite the school books; that, too, is a form of justice. Then, at last, Nagy may be able to rest easy in his grave.

## Hungarian poll victor presses for EC membership

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

FRESH from his party's landslide victory in Sunday's parliamentary elections, Dr József Antall, president of the centre-right Democratic Forum, and the likely candidate for Hungarian Prime Minister, yesterday moved quickly to set the priorities for his government by urging Hungary's full membership of the European Community.

"The European Community is our most important target and we want to concentrate all our means to join as an associate member as soon as possible, and later to become a full member," Dr Antall told journalists.

At the same time he tried to calm fears of Western investors that the new government might halt repayment of Hungary's \$21 billion (£13 billion) foreign debt by promising there would be "no adventures" with the outgoing administration's financial policy.

Some members of the rural based Smallholders Party, which is expected to join the Forum and the Christian Democrats in a conservative coalition, have suggested such a controversial move. Hungary is set to receive substantial loans and credits from the EC and the International Monetary Fund.

While urging closer economic ties with Western

Europe, Dr Antall also said it was time to reshape Hungary's economic relations with the socialist nations of the crumbling Comecon trade bloc, with which he said the country had been "forced" to live.

The emphasis on economic restructuring reflects Hungary's precarious financial situation and concern about social unrest which might erupt if inflation and unemployment, already on the rise, cannot be controlled.

Final results from the poll give the Forum a strong chance to solve the nation's problems as it will have almost a two-thirds majority in the 386-seat Parliament with its centre-right allies. Its nearest rival, the liberal Alliance of Free Democrats, and its partner, the League of Young Democrats, captured 113 seats.

Dr Antall, a medical historian, likened the results to Hungary's last free elections in 1945 when the Smallholders Party emerged victorious from the ruins and chaos of the Second World War. "This proves that the reflexes of the Hungarian people have not been bent by the pressure of 40 years of dictatorship."

Despite an often bitter election campaign, Dr Antall called for reconciliation and co-operation between all the parties to help rebuild the

nation after more than four decades of devastating Communist rule.

He said: "We are not blinded by the euphoria of victory but the aspiration to govern."

The size of the win surprised even the most optimistic Forum predictions. One analyst attributed the Free Democrats' defeat to their image as "complainers and grumblers" who always projected a negative image in their campaign advertising.

Hungarians were more attracted to the Forum's positive approach to solving problems and their moderate positions which avoid extremist views, he said.

Leaders of the Free Democrats refused to admit that their party has reached an end because they now hold the position of being the strongest opposition party.

Mr Balint Magyar, a member of the party's executive council, said: "We have nothing to be ashamed of because no liberal party in the world has ever scored such a victory."

However, he blamed the poor showing on Hungary's new political structure which had left many voters uncertain and a slander campaign, including anti-Semitic leaflets, against its candidates.

Dr Antall has vehemently rejected any charges of anti-Semitism, racism or overt nationalism directed against his party, and yesterday castigated members of the foreign and domestic press for continuing to spread these rumours. The decision of the leader of the Democratic Renewal Party, Mr Kostas Stefanopoulos, to side with the clear winner of Sunday's election ensures that Mr Constantine Mitsotakis will become the next Prime Minister.

A swearing-in ceremony is expected to take place tomorrow, and selection of a new Cabinet could begin immediately afterwards. But although winning almost 48 per cent of the vote has left Mr Mitsotakis with the biggest margin of victory among West European government leaders today, he still faces potentially serious obstacles in pushing New Democracy's campaign programme through Parliament.

Despite the fall in public support for Mr Andreas Papandreu, his arch-rival, the controversial leader of the Socialist Pasok party — which has lost at least four seats — there is evidently no broad national consensus on how to tackle Greece's economic

problems. Advisers to Mr Mitsotakis, who appeared red-eyed and weary to claim victory at an unruly press conference early yesterday morning, acknowledged that Mr Papandreu's support — or at least the lack of open opposition — is probably essential if urgent recovery measures are to be effective.

While nobody wants to spell it out, the price of such co-operation could well be a tacit understanding that the former Prime Minister will never stand trial on the serious corruption charges for which the Greek Parliament indicted him last year. As Mr Mitsotakis sees it, the most urgent task facing his new administration will be to restore confidence in and respect for the country's democratic institutions after the failure of two shaky coalition governments within the past year to stop the rot.

In the words of one veteran observer here: "The social cement holding this country together has been seriously damaged." As the chronic individualism of the Greeks gradually spilled over into near anarchy, the absence of authoritative leadership was increasingly obvious. But even in defeat Mr Papandreu



Dr Antall, president of the victorious Democratic Forum, flashing a victory sign at a Budapest press conference yesterday

## Tough economic battle awaits Greek winner

From Philip Jacobson, Athens

WITH the capture of the support of Greece's single centrist member of parliament, the conservative New Democracy Party yesterday secured the narrow majority it was seeking to form a new Government.

The decision of the leader of the Democratic Renewal Party, Mr Kostas Stefanopoulos, to side with the clear winner of Sunday's election ensures that Mr Constantine Mitsotakis will become the next Prime Minister.

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### GREEK ELECTIONS\*

	Votes	Seats	%
New Democracy	3,058,887	150	48.93
Pasok	2,516,593	122	38.51
Left Coalition	656,711	19	10.23
Joint Pasok-Coalition candidates	66,732	4	1.02
Ecologists-Alternatives	50,123	1	0.77
Diana (Democratic Renewal)	43,552	1	0.67
Muslim minority lists	46,642	2	0.71
Total	6,449,240	300	

\*Result with 99% of vote

## Havel urges swift action to form security grouping

From Peter Green, Bratislava

AS EASTERN Europe's emerging democracies seek to strengthen their ties to Western Europe, President Havel of Czechoslovakia yesterday called for urgent action on his plan for a new European Security Commission.

Mr Havel was speaking at the first "Adriatic-Danube" summit here. It was attended by presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers of Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The foreign ministers of Yugoslavia, Austria and Italy attended as observers.

Mr Havel said the three countries must pull together to speed their entry into Western Europe.

"It is not possible to return to the Europe of the past but it is necessary to think about the Europe of the future. And it is necessary to set up a timetable," President Havel said.

Mr Lubos Dobrovsky, a Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the summit could best be described as a "brainstorming" session to discuss co-ordinating joint entry into

Europe and he expected no concrete results.

In his opening address, President Havel asked delegates 10 questions about European integration.

"The best basis for discussions since the time of Socrates is by asking questions," he said.

Mr Havel said the countries must find common approaches to dealing with such questions as the changing nature of the Warsaw Pact and Comecon, European integration, ecological, cultural and social issues, human rights, minorities and their support for President Gorbachov's reforms.

He also sought support for a joint commemoration of the first anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre in Peking.

Poland is known to be worried about being left behind as its wealthier neighbors improve their links with Western Europe. A source said Poland is angry that the talks were broadened to include Italy, Austria and also Yugoslavia.

## Summit to map out East Europe links

From Peter Guillard, Brussels

A CONFIDENTIAL report mapping out the future relationship between Eastern Europe and the European Community will be discussed by the European Commission today.

The Commission's paper is expected to offer emerging democracies closer association with the EC at varying speeds depending on their degree of political and market reform, without giving an explicit guarantee of eventual membership.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, was expected to be briefed yesterday on the document, which will form the basis of discussions between EC leaders at their summit at Dublin Castle on April 23.

Mr Haughey, who is touring European capitals to prepare the Dublin agenda, is in Brussels for talks with M Jacques Delors, President of the Commission, and Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister. Mr Haughey

first called the emergency summit to assess the impact of German unification on the Community, but the agenda now appears to be swelling.

His visits last week to Bonn, Paris and Rome revealed broad support for the summit also to make a bold gesture in favour of greater political union between EC nations.

Such an idea may receive a cooler response when he meets Mrs Thatcher in London on Friday. She will wish to keep to the original agenda, despite the new momentum among EC leaders for fresh talks to strengthen the EC's institutions, alongside their intergovernmental conference on economic and monetary union in December.

The Commission document on Eastern Europe will be a delicate compromise between internal pressures on the Community not to enlarge its borders until after 1992 and pressure from East European nations to join.

## Communists win stake in future Slovenia coalition

From Richard Bassett, Ljubljana

WITH A few thousand votes still to be counted yesterday after Slovenia's first free elections since before the Second World War, this northern republic of Yugoslavia seems set for a coalition government between Communists and members of the opposition.

But in the important ballot for the Slovene presidency, a run-off election will have to take place on April 22, since none of the candidates polled more than 50 per cent of the votes.

Early unofficial results gave the Democratic Opposition Coalition (Demos) almost 50 per cent of the vote and the Communists only 20 per cent.

Official results were not expected until tomorrow and the final shape of Parliament may depend on which side can lure the third-placed Liberal

Party into a coalition. In the presidential race, Mr Milan Kucan, the former Communist Party chief and present Slovene President, who was expected to win, only polled 44.3 per cent of the votes cast.

Mr Jozse Prucknik, the Demos leader and his closest rival, polled 26.3 per cent.

To the surprise of many here, the eccentric Mr Ivan Kramberger, whose campaign was made memorable largely by the activities of his pet monkey, managed to poll 18.9 per cent.

The turnout was provisionally estimated yesterday at just over 77 per cent, considerably lower than at the compulsory elections held over the last 40 years by the Communists.

Voting was reported highest in the urban areas of Slovenia and lowest in the more

mountainous districts of Lower Styria.

Yesterday's unofficial results were predictably heralded by all sides as a victory. Intoxicated by the novelty of the democratic process, representatives of all the Slovene parties held impromptu celebrations in the streets of the city, undeterred by the failure of many of their candidates to do well.

Mr Kucan claimed the vote was a "victory for moderation and common sense in Slovenia" and predicted an outright victory on April 22.

Mr Prucknik, a more reserved personality, quietly told journalists yesterday that "we will certainly do much better in the second round when the issues will be more defined."

The next Yugoslav republic to go to the polls is Croatia.

## Berlin's warring parties poised to form grand coalition

From Anne McElvey  
East Berlin

EAST Germany's embattled political parties were last night on the verge of forming a grand coalition after lengthy and sometimes bitter negotiations.

Herr Günther Krug, the Social Democrats' chief negotiator, said last night that all Cabinet posts had been decided pending the approval of the individual parties' executives.

But he admitted that there were still "substantial difficulties" on broader questions such as the road to unification and the redistribution of state property after the merging of the two German states.

Wary negotiators representing the three-party conservative Alliance for

Germany, the Social Democrats and the Liberal Alliance had three days of intense discussions in the headquarters of the former communist party.

The Christian Democratic leader and probable Prime Minister, Herr Lothar de Maizière, said that yesterday's talks had taken place in "a first-rate atmosphere" and that a breakthrough had been reached.

There had been fears that the talks would collapse after the weekend when the Social Democrats said they feared their policies would be disregarded in the new government.

Herr de Maizière said, however, that he was now almost certain of presenting a stable coalition government to the Volkskammer (Parliament) when it meets for its second session on Thursday. Despite pleas from reporters he refused to disclose the contents of the briefcase he was carrying — the allocation of the 24 ministerial posts, which has been a big hurdle in the negotiations.

It was confirmed yesterday that 11 of the portfolios will be held by the Christian Democrats, seven by the Social Democrats and three by the Liberals. The right-wing German Social Union (DSU) will have two posts and the smallest conservative party, Democratic Awakening, one.

Herr Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling, the controversial leader of the German Social Union, is known to have insisted on the key post of Interior Minister, but Social Democrats who

had previously opposed this refused last night to confirm whether they had relented on the matter.

The union has also requested the post of Deputy Prime Minister. It also emerged that the country's new Defence Minister is likely to be the popular vicar Herr Rainer Eppelmann of Democratic Awakening, a dissident in the former regime.

The newly elected President of the Volkskammer, the Christian Democrat Frau Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, who yesterday succeeded the acting President, Herr Manfred Gerlach, called on the new parliament to consider as soon as possible the choice of the country's president, saying she had no wish to carry out the parliamentary and national posts for long.



Herr de Maizière: Ready to offer stable coalition

Soviet arms trail

Lithuanian rising pr

Defence ca to hasten



# Soviet U-turn on arms deals leaves trail of confusion

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

US ARMS controllers, who are used to 12-hour days, are this week stepping up their schedules to 16 hours and more. Last week's visit by Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, not only brought the summit date forward by several weeks, it also left confusion in its wake.

On Thursday the President's press secretary was predicting a "tough-love" summit - psychological jargon that suggests a kindly parent forcing a child to face the realities of drug addiction. The "tough-love" has to be prepared to throw the beloved out of the house for his own good; the implication for President Gorbachov was that, unless he looked into his country's inner soul and accepted what a mess it was, he too would be out in the cold.

By the weekend the White House's would-be analysts felt like a rest. Mr. Shevardnadze had explained his difficulties over Lithuania, hinting that the Soviet Union's body politic depended on US forbearance here.

He had then, seemingly systematically, withdrawn every arms control concession which Moscow had made this year - a series of moves which left Mr. James Baker, the US Secretary of State, "disappointed" and his aides back at their drawing boards.

Washington appeared to have forgotten temporarily an important truth about drug addicts and decaying dictatorships - their ability to combine simple pleading with the most deviously applied threats. The most fashionable

explanation of the Soviet mood is that the military is reasserting its power over Mr. Gorbachov. Others believe, with better precedent to back them up, that it is a classic negotiating ploy.

The nastiest surprise for the US team was Mr. Shevardnadze's apparent retreat from the Ottawa Accord cutting Central Europe's superpower troops to 195,000 on each side with 30,000 extra US troops for Britain, Italy, Greece and Turkey. Mr. Baker, with his characteristic keenness to bank a few extra public opinion poll points, had already claimed this in February as a big triumph which for the first time established the principle that the US could keep more troops in the area than the Soviet Union could.

Some US observers believe that the Soviet move was a reaction to the rapid rightward moves in Germany, as shown by the success of the Christian Democrat allies in the East German election. Moscow, it is argued, is increasingly keen to tie the Ottawa limits to new limits on the size of the German Army.

Others think that Mr. Gorbachov is merely trying to keep Washington off balance; that, his generals notwithstanding, he is as keen as ever on the Ottawa deal. His former satellites, now acting under the "Sinatra" doctrine, are, in any case, not giving him much choice.

Another tougher-than-expected response from Mr. Shevardnadze concerned the tricky question of counting cruise missiles launched from

ships. The US side believed that it had Soviet agreement in principle for a system which put "trust" before verification.

Both sides, it was thought, would simply announce their missile levels. This turned out last week to be an illusion. Either the Soviet Navy did not like it or, again, it was a move to make US arms controllers even more exhausted.

The Soviet side also rejected a United States offer, delivered secretly to Moscow last month, which would have ended the deployment on land of nuclear missiles with more than one warhead.

For White House public relations men, ever worried about the prospect that a summit might appear to achieve nothing, the most reliable bit of the superpower bargaining has been over the so-called "open-skies" proposal to allow surveillance over each other's territory. But, here too, Mr. Shevardnadze brought new difficulties over excluded areas and sharing technology - rather than the new compromises which Washington so much wanted to hear.



A Georgian protester in traditional dress calling for independence in Tbilisi

## Protest march on Tbilisi army

From Nick Worrall, Tbilisi

THOUSANDS of Georgian protesters marched on the Soviet Army's Transcaucasian military headquarters yesterday afternoon to demand its withdrawal from this Soviet republic and allow it to declare its independence from Moscow.

The march came after a 24-hour vigil in central Tbilisi to mark the anniversary of the killings on April 9 last year of 20 people. About 3,000 people were also injured in the violence unleashed by paratroopers armed with spades and poison gas.

The marchers converged on the headquarters which controls military operations in Georgia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan.

This time there was no military response to shouts of "occupiers", and the waving of banners with slogans like "murderers, occupiers, leave Georgia!" One Georgian, a former Army colonel, called on all Georgian conscripts to burn their Soviet Army cards. A small detail of soldiers in fatigues watched the event at a distance.

Mr Irakli Tsereteli, leader of the National Independence Party, told the marchers: "We cannot declare independence while the occupying forces are here, so our first task is to remove this army of occupation from Georgia." The pro-

test came after a remarkable 24 hours in the city, which, in stark contrast to last year's Soviet brutality against a peaceful pro-independence demonstration, saw more than a quarter of a million people from Georgia and all over the Soviet Union milling in the city to pay their respects in solidarity with Georgian nationalists.

There have been floral tributes from delegations from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and from the Ukraine, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Some 400 yards from the main Rustaveli Avenue lay a carpet of red carnations and tulips. Mourners wept openly as they passed the square in front of Government House, where the killings took place.

Religious services were held almost non-stop during the night, and at 4 am, exactly a year after the paratroopers set upon the defenceless crowd, an effigy of the Soviet general who led that operation was burned. Of the 20 people killed, 14 were women aged from 16 to 70, and many of the 3,000 poison gas victims are still receiving medical treatment.

The Georgian Communist authorities declared a public holiday yesterday, but closed restaurants, fearing that drinking might inflame passions to violence.

## Lithuania faces rising pressure

Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachov's Presidential Council announced plans yesterday to step up pressure on Lithuania to withdraw its March 11 declaration of independence.

A statement released by the official news agency, Tass, rejected apparent signs of compromise offered by Lithuania's leaders this week and accused them of leading the republic into a dead end.

Tass said the council decided on the need to take "further measures of economic, political and other character" aimed at "defending the Soviet constitution and... the interests of citizens living on the territory of the republic and in the country as a whole". It gave no details.

It said the council, chaired by Mr Gorbachov, rejected as "unconstructive" the answer given by the Lithuanian parliament to an appeal from Mr Gorbachov urging them to return to the Soviet fold.

The parliament last Thursday appealed to President Gorbachov for talks and indicated it was willing to give some ground on certain issues. But it refused to abandon the independence declaration.

The council said the parliament's reply "does not bring in any real ways of settling the problem and in fact takes the issue into a dead end". It added: "The present

Lithuanian leadership, by its unconstitutional actions and escalation of illegal measures, blocks chances of getting out of the crisis and aggravates the situation in the republic for which it bears full responsibility."

● VILNIUS: Around 10,000 people, mainly ethnic Russians, met at the weekend in the port of Klaipeda to oppose Lithuanian independence (Anatol Lieven writes).

Speeches were made calling for Klaipeda, the former German city of Nemel, to be separated from Lithuania and joined to the Russian province of Kaliningrad (East Prussia). Klaipeda's population is more than one-third Russian.

It was announced yesterday that an opponent of Lithuanian independence has won a by-election to parliament from the Russian majority town of Snieckus, suggesting that opinion there may be hardening in favour of a possible separation to join the Russian Federation. Mr Sergei Pirozhkov was the candidate of the Soviet Communist Party.

In other elections on Sunday, Sajudis-backed candidates won two seats and the Lithuanian Communist Party won one. Three other constituencies have gone to run-offs because no candidate got more than 50 per cent of the vote.

## Defence cuts plan to hasten unity

From Ian Murray, Bonn

WEST Germany is preparing early and important cutbacks in its defence budget to help speed the German reunification process.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, has met little resistance in the Cabinet in pressing for meaningful reductions in the military budget as he tries to draw up a timetable leading to elections for the parliament of a united Germany next year.

In a radio interview yesterday he said it was "extraordinarily important" for West Germany to set the right priorities now. Real cutbacks in the defence budget should be made to help finance reunification. Savings in the military budget, he argued, were possible, since stability would be the outcome of German and consequent European reunification.

West German diplomats are nevertheless concerned that the sheer pace of change in the East is catching the NATO allies flatfooted. Although there is total commitment to a united Germany being in NATO, Herr Genscher and his strategists believe it is important to look ahead to a new European security system which will involve the Soviet Union, the United States and members of the Warsaw Pact.

Herr Genscher believes this new structure could be organized through the 35 mem-

ber nations of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe, although the details still need much refining. Continued NATO membership is nevertheless regarded as the surest way of maintaining American involvement in Europe for the present.

For both domestic and diplomatic reasons, however, Herr Genscher is persuading the West German Cabinet that it is important to make significant reductions in spending and thus armaments. Calling for domestic defence cutbacks while trying to ensure a continued strong US commitment to Europe is proving a difficult balancing act.

The continued need of a nuclear umbrella for American troops in Europe is therefore understood, although it would be more popular if nuclear missiles could all be removed and replaced with airborne weapons.

● EAST BERLIN: A united Germany could remain a member of NATO but be free of troops from the Western military alliance, a member of a US Senate delegation said here yesterday (AP reports).

The visiting Senate Democrats, who were later to leave for the Soviet Union, also said they would warn President Gorbachov against the use of force to put down independence movements in the three Baltic nations.



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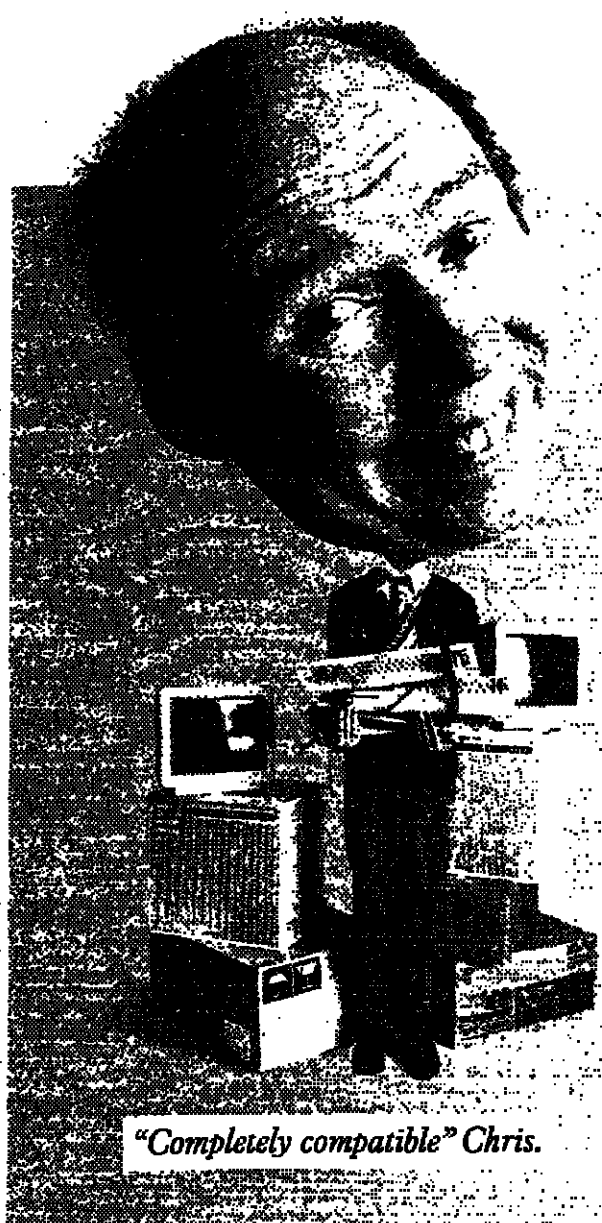
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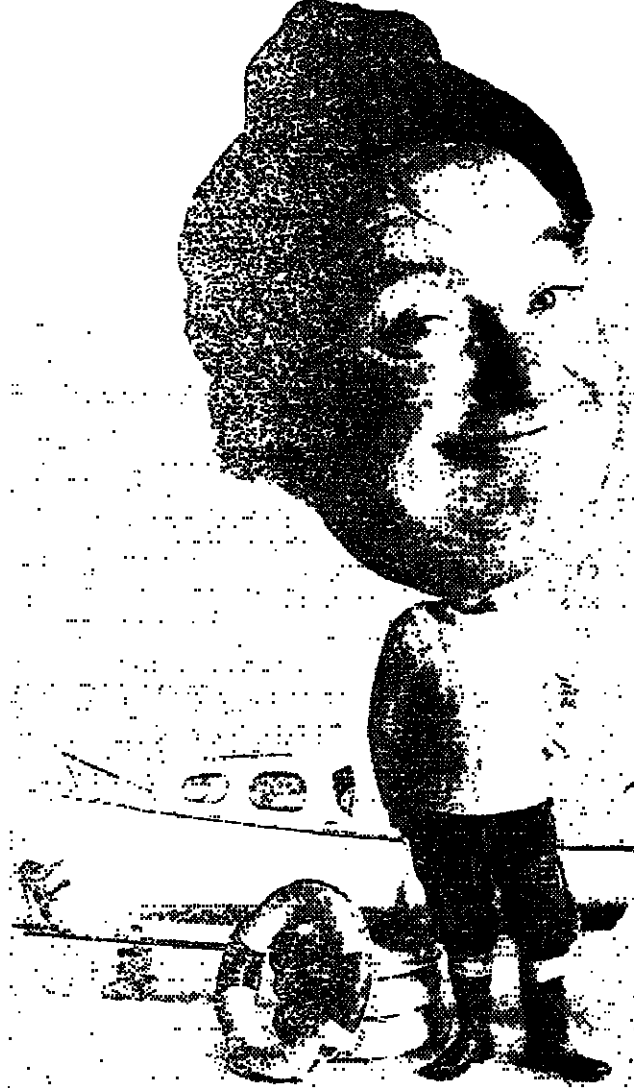
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# Quebec separatism derailing plan for arranged marriage

From Susan Elliott, Quebec City

FOR the second time in 10 years Quebec is considering life outside Canada. This time the separation could actually happen.

The catalyst would be a historic accord designed to include Quebec in the Canadian constitution. The agreement is in danger of being scrapped because three other provinces oppose it.

The so-called Meech Lake accord will die unless the country's 10 provinces ratify it by June 23, but Newfoundland, Manitoba and New Brunswick object to a clause that recognizes Quebec as a "distinct society". Last week the Newfoundland legislature voted to rescind its earlier ratification of the accord.

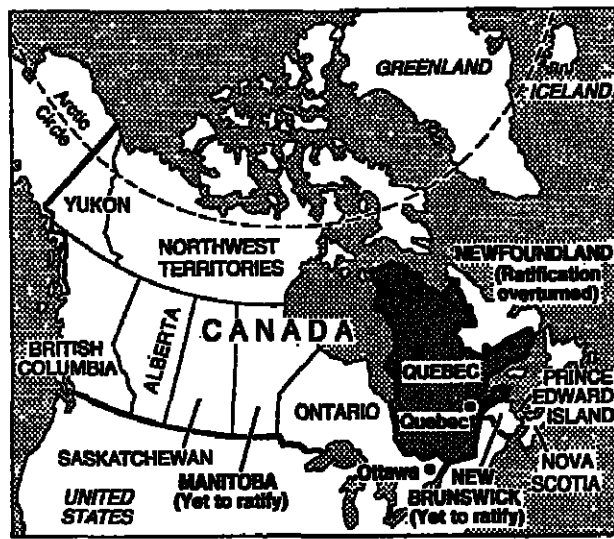
The three are worried that the provision will give Quebec special rights over the rest of Canada. Leaders of the 10 provinces and the Conservative Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, signed the basic accord in 1987. However, three years were allowed for the expected ratification and

in that period the leadership of the three rebel provinces has changed.

The federal Environment Minister, Mr Lucien Bouchard, reacted angrily to the Newfoundland decision. He observed that Canada will soon have to make a choice between Newfoundland and Quebec. Other federal ministers voiced similar criticism.

Last week the growing crisis over Meech Lake forced Mr Mulroney to give one of the most important speeches of his career. Speaking in the Commons in Ottawa, he called on Canadians to preserve a Canada that is "more than the sum of its parts".

Canada's leading French newspapers carried his pleas on their front pages, but polls show that few people understand what all the fuss is about. Many Canadians are so bored by the daily media coverage of their country's latest constitutional crisis that English-speakers have adopted the expression "Meeched out". Even senior government officials, such as Quebec's minister of justice, are taking a sanguine view. Mr Gil Remil-



and says: "We have two national sports in Canada - racketball and the constitution."

It now seems unlikely that Meech Lake will be ratified by its June deadline. The general orthodoxy is that Canadians would prefer a looser confederation. The Premier of Quebec, Mr Robert Bourassa, has proposed a structure similar to a model of post-1992 Europe that would weaken the power

of the central government, allow provincial sovereignty, but maintain an economic union.

Politicians have predicted terrible developments should Meech Lake fail. These include separatist terrorism in Quebec, economic ruin or, perhaps most unlikely, the rest of Canada joining the United States. Mr Pierre Trudeau, the former leader, has emerged from retirement to warn of the

"balkanization" of Canada. Even in a country where constitutional disputes are common, many people agree that this year's crisis is probably Canada's gravest to date.

In 1980, when the issue last arose, a majority of Quebecers voted in a referendum to stay within Canada's confederation.

Now, the nation's economic prosperity over the past decade and increased commerce under the 16-month-old US-Canada Free Trade Agreement have spawned a new generation of confident and bilingual Quebecois entrepreneurs who see no need to remain within Canada.

Moreover about 50 small towns have added to tensions between the mainly French-speaking province and its overwhelmingly English-speaking neighbour, Ontario, by voting against using French as a working language.

"We're not too popular," said Mr Bryant Webster, a mechanic who is president of the national Alliance for the Preservation of English in Canada (APEC) in Thunder Bay. The group persuaded the port, only 2 per cent of whose inhabitants have French as

their first language, to pass its resolution. The language vote, however, is only part of the problem. Both French and English-speaking Canadians acknowledge that this year's showdown has been brewing since 1981 when Mr Trudeau persuaded Westminster to relinquish its *de jure* control over the Canadian constitution.

The niggling between Quebec and the rest of Canada has been stirred by a mixture of misunderstandings, insecurities and provincial sensitivities for years. English-speaking provinces have been smouldering since a decision in 1988 by Mr Bourassa, to forbid outdoor commercial signs in English.

The tangle of resentments has produced a constitutional crisis that reveals the deepest roots of Canada's woes - a resistance to becoming a melting pot like the United States. Instead, the huge country has prided itself on remaining a mosaic of ethnic groups, from the Eskimos of the northern tundra to the Chinese communities of Vancouver in the Pacific west.

French-speakers in a continent where almost all the other 270 million people speak English. While the rest of Canada struggles against too much influence from south of the US border, the province has retained an undeniably French flavour. Renault-5 cars zip past Pontiacs and Chevrolets at traffic lights. The neon sign of a fast-food restaurant called "Marie Antoinette" marks the main road from the airport to Quebec City.

In many ways the Quebecois appear to feel less threatened than their English-speaking compatriots by their proximity to Uncle Sam. They drink their coffee from large bowls and eat croissants for breakfast. Their bookshops contain the latest Editions Seuil and modern philosophy from France.

"I don't consider the rest of Canada my country," says Mr Alain Lessard, a Quebec City bookseller with the twangy vowel sounds that distinguish Canadian French. "Quebec is my country. I don't speak English. I've never been to British Columbia."

speaking Canadians in Ottawa painstakingly explain to new arrivals how different they are from Americans, with whom the uninitiated often confuse them. Britain's influence on Canada is immediately apparent. The Sparks Street Mall in the city's business district boasts a Marks & Spencer and a W.H. Smith. The signs for Elizabeth Street and Gladstone Avenue bear a picture of a crown. It is this profound sense of *identité* that seems to have unnerved the three rebel provinces.

Canada's English-speaking provinces are almost certainly exaggerating the effects of what will happen if Meech Lake fails; its French-speakers are probably too sensitive about perceived efforts by the rest of Canada to crush their culture. One thing, however, is certain. Canadians are shocked at how intolerant their society appears to have become.

In the words of one Ottawa-based businessman, the wrangles over language and Quebec's status have "brought a dreadful genie out of the bottle which appeared to be long buried".

## Peru election foes face run-off after late surge by left

Lima LEFT-WING Peruvian politicians have hinted they would support Señor Alberto Fujimori as presidential candidate to keep the novelist, Señor Mario Vargas Llosa, from reaching power.

Señor Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, surged from nowhere to finish a close second to Señor Vargas Llosa in the first round of presidential elections.

Voters jammed the polls in defiance of left-wing guerrilla calls for a boycott. The two face each other in a run-off in late May or early June.

Unofficial returns from Sunday's elections gave Señor Vargas Llosa between 31 and 38 per cent of the vote, while Señor Fujimori, who a month earlier had less than 1 per cent in opinion polls, carried between 28 and 31 per cent.

Official results will not be ready for three weeks. As counting began, leaders of left-wing parties and the ruling, social democratic Aprista Party predicted victory for Señor Fujimori and some hinted they would back him.

"The Fujimori phenomenon has broken the mould... The citizenry will not accept what all power in Peru, with so much money, tried to impose," said Señor Henry Pease, the losing Marxist candidate, referring to the millions of dollars spent by the centre-right Señor Vargas Llosa on his campaign.

Señor Pease, who won about 7 per cent of the vote according to unofficial counts,

said he doubted Señor Vargas Llosa could win more votes in the second round than his first round total since "all the other votes were against his economic proposals".

Señor Vargas Llosa has proposed stringent economic measures along the lines of those imposed by President Fernando Collor de Mello in Brazil.

His left-wing critics and Señor Fujimori say that would throw thousands out of work.

Señor Fujimori will need support from left-of-centre parties, which, combined, won about a quarter of the vote, to beat Señor Vargas Llosa, tipped for months as the certain victor.

"It is highly probable that Fujimori will win the second round," said Señor Jorge del Castillo, a deputy-elect and former Aprista mayor of Lima.

In the biggest upset in Peru's brief history as a democracy, Señor Fujimori, a former university rector, talk-show host and political voice, benefited from voter apathy towards traditional parties to succeed President Alan García, barred by law from seeking re-election.

"I will not make any political pacts with any parties. The people do not need any bosses to tell them how to vote," a beaming Señor Fujimori, who used to complain that the press paid him no attention, told a packed news conference.

He also turned down Señor Vargas Llosa's invitation to

drop out of the second round and throw his support behind him.

Both candidates dwarfed Señor Luis Alva Castro, the Aprista candidate who, hampered by Señor García's legacy of economic collapse and political violence, won about 14 per cent of the vote.

In his meteoric political career, Señor Fujimori has already introduced a fresh, homespun style to Peru's rough-and-tumble politics.

While other candidates relied on well-oiled party machines, Señor Fujimori enlisted his family and friends to run his campaign, which he began by hitching a small stand to his tractor and touring Lima and the surrounding countryside.

"He has always been very demanding with us, even during the campaign. He always achieves what he proposes to do," Keiko Sofia, his daughter, aged 14, said.

At his news conference he said he would try to improve the lives of the seven million Peruvians who live in abject poverty as the first step towards fighting the 10 years of guerrilla violence which has claimed 17,000 lives.

He said he would re-establish normal ties with foreign creditors after a virtual cut-off in foreign credit since 1986.

Dubbed by the local press as Tsumami, the Japanese term for tidal wave, Señor Fujimori won huge majorities in parts of the impoverished interior such as the guerrilla hotbed of Ayacucho. (Reuters)



Love and war: Señor Fujimori, left, embracing his electoral rival, Señor Vargas Llosa, at a Lima press conference

## Reprieve for boat people

From Jonathan Brande Hong Kong

MR FRANCIS Maude, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Hong Kong, yesterday said Britain would not forcibly repatriate boat people for the time being. He also welcomed the sharp decline in the number of new arrivals from Vietnam this year.

Vietnam has refused to accept those who are being returned against their will. A first batch of 51 boat people was forcibly repatriated on December 12 last year. Speaking after a tour of Hong Kong's notorious Whitehead detention centre, where nearly 23,000 are being held in sordid conditions, Mr Maude said the fewer number of arrivals could ease some of the pressure on Hong Kong.

Last year 34,000 boat people arrived in the colony. So far this year, some 750 have arrived, compared with 1,547 during the same period last year.

Party pledge: Mr Martin Lee, elected chairman of the colony's newest political party on Sunday, said yesterday the United Democrats of Hong Kong would not seek to promote democracy in China (Reuters reports). It would limit its scope to Hong Kong.

## Visa accord cements UK-Argentina ties

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN and Argentina yesterday put aside most of their remaining differences when Señor Domingo Cavallo, the Foreign Minister, became the first senior Argentine official to visit London since the Falklands war.

Señor Cavallo invited Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, to visit Buenos Aires, and Mr Hurd accepted. They signed an agreement to abolish the requirement for visas for visits by British and Argentine people to each other's countries.

Later Señor Cavallo joined Mrs Thatcher at a lunch for foreign visitors attending the World Ministerial Drugs Summit, which Britain is hosting.

In another move, a new forum to enhance Anglo-Argentine friendship completed its first conference at a country hotel near London. It followed the pattern of the annual Kongsu conference between British and German representatives which began after the Second World War and reached their 40th anniversary last month.

The 17-strong Argentine delegation was led by Dr Carlos Manuel Muniz, a former foreign minister, and included Senator Eduardo

Menem, a brother of President Menem.

The moves underlined the recovery of a relationship which served both countries' interests until the war. Before 1982, Britain was one of Argentina's main trade partners in Europe, while Argentina was the focus of British investment in South America.

Señor Cavallo said the people of Argentina were very happy with the restoration of normal relations.

Mr Hurd said: "We had a very practical discussion identifying several ways in

which we can build up traditional co-operation." They also discussed drugs, investment and South Atlantic fisheries.

"We are both concerned about over-fishing by Far Eastern fleets in the South Atlantic," Mr Hurd said. Señor Cavallo added: "We think we can make progress in avoiding over-fishing."

The visa abolition agreement was one of 17 ideas which emerged from talks in Madrid in February on renewing full diplomatic relations. It has been negotiated surprisingly quickly, in view of the slower pace on some other issues.

It was agreed in Madrid that a visit to Falklands war graves by relatives of Argentine servicemen who died in the war would be arranged, but no date has yet been announced. The lack of enthusiasm among Falkland islanders for any renewal of contacts with Argentina. Their views have, if anything, hardened in recent months.

Argentine sources said Buenos Aires would do its best to convince the islanders that their interests would not be threatened by its claim to sovereignty of the Falklands.



Señor Cavallo: Seeking an agreement on fishing

## Sihanouk plea for UN forces

Bangkok - Prince Norodom Sihanouk has asked the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to send troops to police Cambodia until elections in two or three years.

In a new peace proposal, the Prince has abandoned the demand for a four-party interim government headed by himself and including representatives of all three opposition factions and the Vietnamese-backed Government in Phnom Penh. He has dropped his demand that the Phnom Penh administration as well as the coalition government, which is recognized by the UN, be dismantled before elections. (Reuters)

## Leader chosen

Peking - The Mongolian Democratic Party, the biggest democratic group, has chosen Mr Erdenein Batuuul, a leading intellectual, as its first party chief. (Reuters)

## Clash kills 5

Delhi - Hindus and Muslims clashed in the western state of Gujarat with police and news reports saying that at least five people died. (AP)

## Murder on rise

Washington - The number of murders in the US increased 4 per cent last year, up from the 3 per cent rise the year before, according to FBI statistics. (AP)

## Britons saved

Rest - A French fishing boat saved four British fishermen stranded in a lifeboat for more than 36 hours in the English Channel, maritime officials here said. (AP)

## Crack troops sent to Natal

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

ELITE South African combat units are being deployed in Natal in an attempt to quell heavy fighting between rival black communities, amid reports that riot police have come under fire from automatic rifles.

The troops from 32 Infantry Battalion and 61 Mechanized Battalion, who served in the Angolan and Namibian conflicts, are expected to arrive in the strife-torn townships around Pietermaritzburg today. It is understood that the infantry soldiers are mainly Portuguese-speaking Angolan expatriates, whom it is hoped will be impartial in fulfilling peacekeeping duties in the Zulu-speaking region.

The arrival of the forces is timely, judging by accounts of Soviet-made AK47 assault rifles being used in the conflict between groups allied with the African National Congress (ANC) and members of the conservative Inkatha organization led by Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of the KwaZulu tribal homeland.

In a recent incident, police said they confronted hundreds of Inkatha fighters and ordered them to halt and sit down. They complied, but unknown gunmen opened fire on the assembly and five people were killed. AK47 bullets and empty cartridges were found later.

At least 30 people were killed at the weekend when clashes spread from the Umsundusi River valley west of Pietermaritzburg to the Hammarsdale region on the road to Durban. Mr Pierre Cronje, a Democratic Party Member of Parliament, said the police had lost control of the situation and the Army was the "last lifeline" for

residents. Thousands of blacks stayed away from work in Pietermaritzburg and Durban yesterday, in response to a call from the Congress of South African Trade Unions. The pro-ANC organization said the action was in protest against the activities of KwaZulu police, whom it alleged were supporting Inkatha.

● Council takeover: The ruling National Party yesterday lost control of Johannesburg council following revelations that councillors ran a network which spied on citizens (Reuters reports).

The anti-apartheid opposition Democratic Party unexpectedly won a vote of no-confidence in the National Party, enabling them to take over the country's biggest municipality.

"We will unshackle Johannesburg from the old dictates of the past and open up a new era for this city," said Mr Ian Davidson, leader of the council's Democratic Party group.

Pressure on the Johannesburg National Party has mounted since the council acknowledged last month it paid informers to spy on groups seen as a threat to the Government.

## Do-or-die Tiger girls flout Hindu traditions

From James Pringle Jaffna

IT WENT against social and religious conventions, the elderly Hindu schoolteacher said, and he did not like it. Other citizens in this town in the heartland of Sri Lanka's Tamil region just shook their heads.

The objects of their disapproval were the women of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who came marching out of their jungle camps alongside the men as the last of the chastened Indian peace-keeping force pulled out of Jaffna almost two weeks ago. Since then the women have been seen in twos cycling around Jaffna in their camouflage fatigues, AK-47 rifles slung on their backs.

The past few years of war, first against the Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lankan Army, then against the Indian peace-keeping force, have destroyed

part of Jaffna and killed and maimed many people. But this latest development is almost too much.

"I don't know," said the old teacher shaking his head. "Young Hindu girls with weapons - the social fabric of our lives here has been destroyed."

The Tiger members are certainly a new kind of Hindu woman - prepared to take up arms and kill or die for the cause of an independent Tamil homeland separate from the majority Buddhist Sinhalese of Sri Lanka. In a reversal of traditional roles, they are also prepared to give orders to men.

Their political ideas are themselves surprising. They are fighting a war, the Tiger women assert, to create a society like that of Switzerland - surely the only guerrilla fighters to pick up an AK-47 for such a cause.

Miss Jeya Mylvaganam, aged 27, is both the military and political leader

of a platoon of 30 Tiger women who have taken over a rambling old house on the outskirts of Jaffna.

Like other female Tigers, she wears a couple of glass cyanide capsules like a talisman around her neck. On capture, she said, her orders are to break the glass of one of them with her teeth and swallow the poison. A group of 14 Tamil Tiger male soldiers once did this in Indian custody, and only a few survived. The men, however, carry only one cyanide capsule.

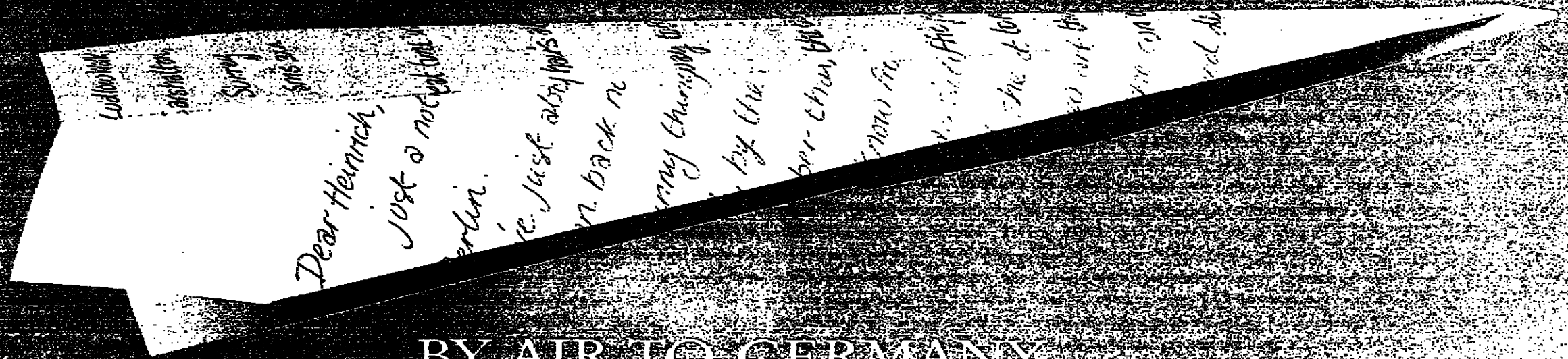
Miss Mylvaganam has not quite squared her policies with those of Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tamil Tiger leader, who has also just emerged from his jungle headquarters. His lieutenants have been holding talks with President Premadasa amid signs of a deal being worked out that would give the Tamils substantial autonomy within a

united Sri Lankan state. Miss Mylvaganam does not seem quite as conciliatory.

"We are fighting Sri Lankan military oppression," she said in one of the first interviews given by a Tiger female fighter. "They have tried to destroy our culture. Now we want our own separate state without any interference."

Neither she nor the other Tiger women were afraid to die; 27 of them already had. "We don't like to die but we are fighting for freedom," the former political science student at Jaffna University said. "Our life is very small, but the cause is big."





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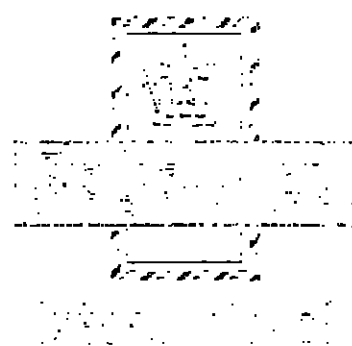
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Continued on page 31

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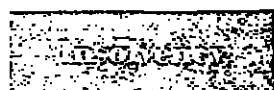
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# Nepal's demi-god must find new role

NEPALESE used to laugh at the story of King Farouk of Egypt, who, when he was toppled, said that one day there would be just five kings in the world: those of hearts, spades, clubs, diamonds, and England.

They laughed because their own monarch, King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Ded, was certain to be the sixth for he was the inseparable head of the country and truly well beloved of all his people.

For those who saw the local peasantry prostrate themselves as the King drove past in procession, or passionately argue that he was divine, an incarnation of the Hindu God Vishnu, it was hard to discredit their confidence.

King Birendra is the third Nepalese monarch since the end of the Rana shogunate. The monarchy's popularity is at least partly due to the fact that for more than a century, until 1950, it had not exercised power. Unswayed by controversy it became, like the emperors of Japan, an object of veneration.

The restoration of Tribhuvan, King Birendra's grandfather, was part of a national insurrection against the Ranas and, paradoxically, the royal family became a rallying point for democracy. Consequently 10 years later, when his father, Mahendra, overthrew the delicate balance between representative government and restored monarchy, making the King of Nepal the chief executive as well as head of state, it was far from clear that

The autocratic rule of King Birendra of Nepal over an impoverished and forgotten corner of the world has been weakened by the violence of the weekend and his reaction to it. Karan Thapar profiles a monarch under siege

he was laying the ground for the greatest threat the crown would face. Yet that is precisely the position King Birendra is in today.

Born in 1946, educated at Eton and Harvard, and married to a Rana daughter, the King is a plump, soft-spoken, shy man with few, if any, of the trappings of absolute monarchy.

His public image, that of a man stately in military uniform, his eyes inaccessible behind dark glasses, reveals little of the private man. Indeed, the world's last ruling Hindu monarch seems more comfortable in a photograph



King Birendra: Lifted ban at the eleventh hour

taken in the early 1960s, on a weekend break from Eton, in which he sports winkle-pickers and a tuff cut in suits.

His housemaster recalls the young Crown Prince's period at Eton as a happy one. Although he excelled at nothing in particular, he adapted admirably. Tom Stonor (now Lord Camoys) spent six months in Kathmandu tutoring him for his Common Entrance, and the Crown Prince spent many of his Eton holidays at Stonor Park, a little further up the Thames. Here he met Graham Greene, Malcolm Sargeant, John Piper, John Betjeman and many diplomats and other public figures, in a course in the ways of a world dramatically different from the one he would inherit and rule.

Exposure to the nascent social movements of the 1960s, to the playing fields and fagging system of Eton, all combined to provide the future king with a singular, if not unexpected, education. It is obviously one he sets great store by, as his son, Crown Prince Dipendra is currently in his last year at Eton.

In 1972, when he was only 29, he became King Birendra with unlimited power over the lives of his 18 million subjects — 12 years earlier his father

had dispensed with a brief democratic experiment, abolishing political parties and replacing the directly elected legislature with a network of local councils called *panchayats* culminating in an indirectly elected National Panchayat. A referendum in 1980 confirmed that most of his subjects were happy with the arrangement.

For most of the time under his reign, Nepal has been a forgotten corner of the world. Even the monarchy's official intolerance of religions other than Hinduism, which should have attracted outside concern, was ignored. The world was content to accept Nepal as a happy Shangri-la.

Yet this image of a Himalayan Ruritania, picturesque, peaceful and primitive, was always vitiated by the tensions of Nepalese poverty and politics which lay festering underneath. King Birendra's throne has been periodically shaken by popular protests but, until now, he has successfully calmed them.

His strength lay in the unquestioning loyalty of the country's peasant majority. They remained unperturbed by the liberal emotions which excited the urban and intellectual minorities who have represented the political straitjacket they have lived within.

That changed this year. This time the demands for democracy spread beyond the kingdom's towns and into the hinterland villages. The numbers protesting on Kathmandu streets were evidence that a movement previously limited to the urban population had become a nationwide phenomenon.

Ironically, the King was partly responsible for this. The cautious economic policies he pursued failed to make any significant dent in Nepal's poverty, and it remains one of the 10 poorest countries in the world. Resentments have built up, fuelled particularly by widely believed allegations that peripheral but ubiquitous members of the royal family have made fortunes out of corruption.

Accusations have been levelled at his wife, Queen Aishwarya, whom he married in a six-day ceremony in 1970. To her are attributed the Machiavellian intrigues and the aggression to which Lady Macbeth was so immediately inclined. Rumours of embezzlement (from tourism and charity funds) abound, also implicating the King's younger brother.

Impossible to confirm, such allegations are fuelled by the imperious, brash posturing of both these figures, next to whom the King appears strangely demure. In these circumstances the formally banned political parties were bound to find a receptive audience for their demands.

They were helped by the increasingly frequent sojourns many Nepalese now spend in neighbouring India. They cross the open border in search of employment but return influenced by the political system.

With his agreement to amend the Constitution to lift the ban on political parties, King Birendra appeared to concede defeat. But his announcement left many questions unanswered. When will the proposed amendment be carried out? Will there be an interim government until



A crowd of jubilant Nepalese waving party banners in Kathmandu yesterday after hearing news that King Birendra had lifted the 30-year ban on political parties

then? And will the next elections, due in less than a year, be on a multi-party basis?

Yet, if these are merely procedural queries, there are also some substantive doubts that will have to be cleared by the King. Under the present *panchayat* system the monarch has the power to nominate almost a fifth of the National Assembly's members, the rest being elected indirectly. Will that change?

At present the King appoints the Prime Minister and has the power to dissolve Parliament. Will that go? In fact, did Sunday night's royal proclamation herald the end of an absolute monarchy and the beginning of a constitutional regime? The celebrations on the streets of Kathmandu are a sign that Birendra's subjects think it does.

As yet none of them wishes to see the monarchy itself

replaced. They see it as a symbol of Nepal's sovereignty, and identify with King Birendra, a living affirmation of the kingdom's unique status.

But, if King Birendra proves these expectations of a constitutional monarchy wrong, the anger he will provoke could endanger his own future. Which, no doubt, is why he will not, even if hereafter he seems to drag his feet.

As a constitutional monarch the King's future should be secure, and the royal succession to Crown Prince Dipendra guaranteed; but it will not be by any means a problem free.

The lifting of the ban on political parties will legitimize Nepal's fractious and fragmented communist parties and, for ideological reasons alone, they will be opponents of the monarchical system.

At the same time the King will have to handle his former supporters, who served in the *panchayat* system but will carry little credibility hereafter. They are the losers and will look to him for succour. Many could feel let down, but the King's sympathy could easily be mistaken for attempts to renege on the new Constitution.

The greatest problem could come from the policies of the Nepalese Congress Party, the largest and most popular in the kingdom. It seems likely to win the next election and it is committed to "socialist" reforms. But will the King, by then reduced to a constitutional monarch, accept land reforms and nationalisation, with perhaps forcible confiscation and minimal compensation, and a creeping egalitarianism, which steadily undermines the aristocracy and the royal family's friends?

## Violence gives way to dancing on the streets

From Christopher Thomas Kathmandu

NEPAL celebrated yesterday, with tens of thousands of people taking to the streets in towns and villages, their faces painted red as they danced, chanted, waved flags and tossed confetti from rooftops.

It would have been a day filled with mass violence if King Birendra had not announced at the eleventh hour on Sunday that he was lifting a 30-year ban on political parties. Opposition plans for nationwide protests in defiance of shoot-on-sight curfews were immediately cancelled.

Western diplomats put the death toll from last Friday's uprising at around 150. The last six fatalities happened after news of the King's climb-down was issued. Youths went on to the streets of Kathmandu to celebrate but were shot by security forces as the curfew was still in effect.

Police and troops stood by yesterday, watching the spectacular sight of mass jubilation that swept through Kathmandu as huge convoys of buses, lorries and tractors brought hundreds of thousands of people from outlying areas.

Youths sat on rooftops and on top of statues, waving the flags of hitherto banned political parties and chanting slogans against the corrupt *panchayat* system of non-party government. Some demanded stern action against Mr Manich Man Singh Shrestha, the former Prime Minister, regarded as the architect of the Government's hard-line security policy.

Once the festival atmosphere dies down, fundamental questions about Nepal's political future will have to be faced. Some hard bargaining between politicians and the royal palace lies ahead, and there will be enormous potential for more violence if the King seeks to retain some of his powers. Under the *panchayat* system, he has been a virtual dictator, if a somewhat benevolent one.

Disused political machinery is now creaking back into use. One of the main political forces, the United Leftist Front — an amalgam of seven communist parties — will face the challenge of trying to stay together without a common purpose.

In Nepali terms the communists are mostly moderate socialists who generally favour steady moves towards the formation of a republic.

Centre-right groupings are bound to emerge out of pro-*panchayat* elements. The Nepali Congress, the biggest single party, will pursue a left-of-centre platform and could form an electoral alliance with the communists, although that is an outside possibility.

Unlike the communists, Congress wants to retain a constitutional monarchy. Mr Ganesh Man Singh, aged 75, the Congress leader — ill in hospital — is on the radical left.

The big imponderable is whether the King will accept the demand for full Western-style democracy. He has not indicated how much power he is willing to give up, or whether he will agree to be a British-style monarch.

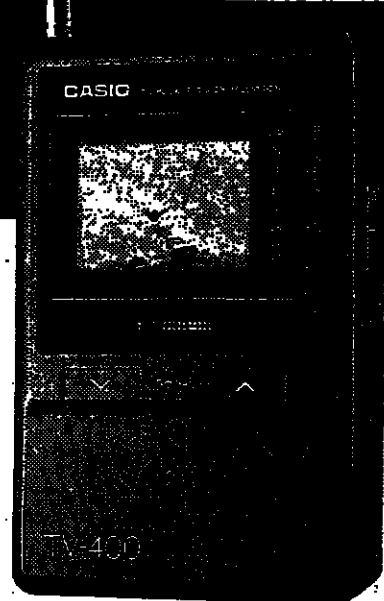
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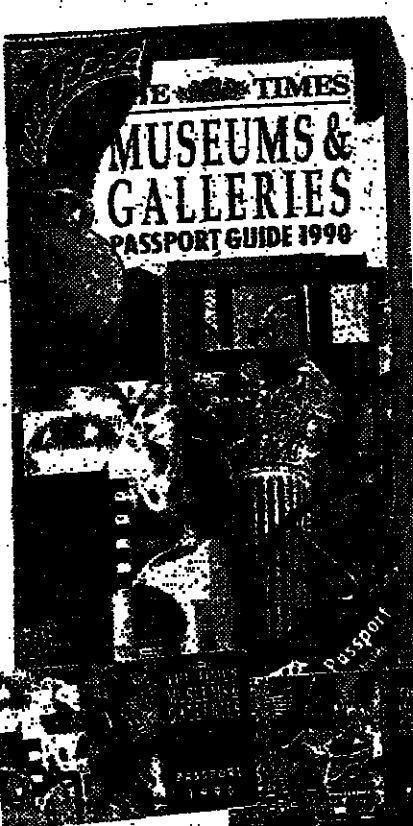
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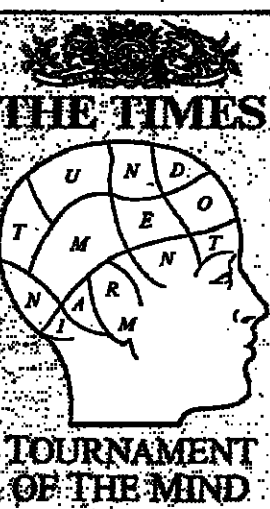
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## Tournament of the Mind



Round 11: diagrams: 784; verbal: phylodend; logic: 95 (add the bottom two numbers then multiply by the top number); maths: yes; miscellany: Great Barrier Reef (5,441)  
Round 12: diagrams: E; verbal: ma, mar, mars, marsh, marshy; logic: L X V (Roman numerals); maths: in order — D, A, C, B; miscellany: Rola-Royce (10,147)  
Round 13: diagrams: 32 times; verbal: bar; logic: 37 ways; maths: The largest cog will make 15 revolutions before all are back to start position; miscellany: Woody Allen (1,278)  
Round 14: diagrams: T; verbal: combats (verbally); logic: 4,454m; maths: 66 years; miscellany: Morgan Russell and Stanton Macdonald-Wright (7,818)

Here are the answers for Rounds 11 to 20 of The Times Tournament of the Mind. Entries are now being marked by Mensa and the names of the finalists will be published on April 20. The finals will begin on April 24

Round 15: diagrams: 64; verbal: hornblende and clearance; logic: 17 of 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p and £2 coins; maths: Yes; miscellany: Cardinal Wolsey (1,427)  
Round 16: diagrams: 7 ways; verbal: Belize, Panama and Turkey; logic: "When I would prey and think I think and pray to several subjects" (Shakespeare); maths: 1.95 years; miscellany: Ka'bah (6,669)  
Round 17: diagrams: 70; verbal: (kier, pier, peer) — peen; logic: 0 (odd and even numbers); maths: 80mph average speed; miscellany: The world real tennis championship (9,973)  
Round 18: diagrams: Six Bs; verbal: stipple, pasta, psalms; logic: 1292.50; maths: 96 miles; miscellany: 1973, 1974 and 1977 (3,669)  
Round 19: diagrams: 825; verbal: picaresque and novelette, N and R are the extra letters; logic: 12.15pm; maths: 20 hours; miscellany: Cotopaxi (3,669)  
Round 20: diagrams: 13 (A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8; verbal: rhyton; logic: 62 or 63 (both are correct, using different logic); maths: 24.45; miscellany: Pierre Schaeffer and Pierre Henry (10,507)

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# TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

Sources deep within the Establishment are becoming ever more insistent in pointing me towards what they are convinced is a significant conjunction of facts. In June, the Queen holds the annual Garter ceremony at St George's Chapel, Windsor, at which new members of our highest order of chivalry are installed. Three years ago she changed the rules of this hitherto male preserve (other royalty excepted) to open the Order on equal terms to men and women. The Order, restricted to 24 ordinary members, has a vacancy. By now you will see what I am getting at. The last serving prime minister to be so decorated was Sir Winston Churchill, just before the Coronation in 1953. The great man was by then past his prime, and indeed retired from office less than two years later amid an undercurrent of muttering that he had held on for too long. Sources not very distant from the throne tell me that the current vacancy will be filled by the longest-serving prime minister this century. If that is so, I cannot but wonder if it amounts to the gentlest and subtlest of hints from the Sovereign that it is again time for a graceful withdrawal. The personal relationship between the two women has, I believe, been cool ever since the Prime Minister arrived for the first Tuesday audience of her reign wearing a dress identical to the Queen's. Suggestions from Downing Street that better liaison might prevent a reputation were disdainfully rejected by the Palace.

Oh for the good old days of ILEA. Barking and Dagenham Council, advertising for primary school teachers, invites candidates to write to the town hall "to receive an application form".

Leaving the heavy task of German reunification to others for the next fortnight, Chancellor Helmut Kohl has gone off for his 16th annual "cure" at the Hotel Saint George among the Austrian lakes at Bad Hofgastein. This year there is more Kohl than ever to get rid of; he weighed in at 18st 10lb at the start of his period of unwanted abstinence, but on past form should slough off about a stone before returning lean and ravenously hungry to the wall-dismantling game. Kohl watchers have found that it generally takes around eight weeks for him to put it all back on again. Oskar Lafontaine, his radical socialist rival for the chancellorship next December, is no mean trencherman himself, and his exploits with knife and fork have prompted his critics to complain that he "talks left but lives right". One current Lafontaine joke tells how, after a particularly gargantuan restaurant meal, he sent for the waiter and commanded: "Now bring me some money. I want to pay."

Lord Justice Woolf, who has been appointed to head the judicial inquiry into recent events at Sandbaggers Prison, is no stranger to riot. He will, I am sure, recall the night of the Guy Fawkes celebration that went wrong. While a law student at University College London in 1953, he was one of 2,000 undergraduates



Woolf: riotous youth

whose November 5 varnish rag somehow ran out of control and attracted the attention of large numbers of the constabulary. A contemporary issue of *Pi*, the UCL magazine, reports that 189 participants were arrested and appeared at Bow Street magistrates' court on charges of obstructing the police, most of them to be relieved of 20 shillings. Whether His Lordship was one of those arraigned as a result of this jape I cannot say for certain at this distance, but the experience, I am sure, can have done him nothing but good.

This column — well-known for its love and appreciation of single malt Scotch whisky — needed artificial respiration and a stiff dram on learning of some of the water of life for sale at what must be an all-time record of £2,000 a bottle. Shock was engendered, not by the price itself, but by disbelief that a Scotsman would ever part with so much for his basic groceries. He wouldn't, of course. Ninety bottles from the Ben Nevis distillery at Fort William, distilled in 1926, are on their way to Japan, where the aforesaid outrageous price will be paid without demur by the Scotch-loving Nipponese. This could be seen as a great British export coup but for one thing: last year the Japanese bought the distillery.

Since 1966 the French attitude towards the defence of Europe has been largely ambiguous. A part of Nato and yet not a part; committed to European security, yet not integrated with the alliance's command structure. As the Defence Secretary, Tom King, meets his counterpart, Jean-Pierre Chevenement, in Paris today, France's defence posture *vis-à-vis* the alliance will be the subject of serious discussion because of the need to devise a new military strategy in the light of the changed security situation.

The British government is already talking to its allies about a new multinational force to defend Europe. At present, Nato's forward deployments in West Germany consist of multinational army groups, but are based on a number of national corps (each of three or four divisions). Thus, the Northern Army Group, responsible for the forward defence of West Germany south of Schleswig-Holstein and north of the Göttingen-Liege axis, includes land forces from Britain, Belgium and Holland, as well as West Germany's northern divisions and one US brigade.

The new idea, still at an early stage, is to bring member countries together at a lower level. This would entail multinational

Michael Evans sees no prospect of change in French thinking

## Still Nato's odd man out

corps, made up of national divisions, with up to 15,000 men in each division. Now that the threat of conventional war between the 16 Nato nations and the seven countries of the Warsaw Pact has been removed, smaller multinational forces would heighten the impression of common European security, build confidence and perhaps help to solve problems raised by German reunification.

But what role will France have in a reshaped Europe? Judging by a number of statements from British ministers, notably Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, in a speech in Paris two weeks ago, the Government believes it is time that France considered renouncing its ambiguous position and throw in its lot with a new-style Nato.

This is probably a false hope. The French believe their reasons for withdrawing from Nato's integrated military structure in 1966 are even more valid today: they believe that defence is a national responsibility and that

integration of commands imposes limitations on sovereignty. They were doubtful in 1966 about long-term American commitment to Europe, and today consider it even less reliable because of pressures from Congress to reduce force levels.

The French believe that as far as the future security of Europe is concerned, the emphasis will be on national capabilities, national decision-making and co-operation between sovereign states. What the French say about defence is exactly what Mrs Thatcher says about Europe, and what Mrs Thatcher says about defence is what the French say about the European Community.

But the French argument contains a number of obvious weaknesses. France is apparently interested in the idea of smaller multinational forces, but only if they involve exclusively European troops. Yet it wants a continuing US military presence in Europe, including nuclear weapons. The problem is that

the French see integrated European defence as an offshoot of political and economic integration, whereas others, such as Britain, see it simply as a way of making European defence more co-operative. It is a conceptually different way of looking at the same issue.

Yet even the British Ministry of Defence acknowledges that there is a dichotomy between what is politically desirable and what is militarily sensible. President Kennedy once proposed multinational crews for nuclear-armed US warships in and around Europe. This was supposed to give Europe a share of nuclear decision-making, and was the forerunner of the dual-key concept, but the idea quickly foundered. A trial on one ship failed, due to differences in language, temperament and operating procedures.

In spite of France's reluctance to return to the Nato fold, its contribution to the alliance, particularly in recent years, should not be underestimated.

While operating an independent command structure, France has retained observers and liaison officers in many different areas of Nato activity, including virtually every level of the planning and command organization. The French have also taken part in many bilateral exercises.

France has also steadily improved its co-operation with Nato and bilaterally with Britain, Belgium and West Germany, including the establishment of a Franco-German brigade. In March 1986, France agreed to the potential stationing of French nuclear weapons on German soil. A year later, Britain and France agreed to strengthen co-operation in both arms procurement and operations. This included discussions on nuclear policy and joint management of their American airborne early warning E-3A *Awacs* programmes.

Co-operation over nuclear policy may lead to a significant change in the traditional British approach towards the purchase

of nuclear weapons. The Ministry of Defence is considering the possibility of replacing the RAF's near-obsolete WE177 free-fall bomb by joining the French in developing an air-launched stand-off nuclear missile based on a longer-range version of France's ASMP weapon, which is carried on the Mirage 2000.

All these moves are seen by France's allies as steps towards a greater French involvement in the joint defence of Europe. But as Britain and other Nato countries try to frame a new security arrangement for the continent, the participation of France remains one of the most sensitive issues.

The French like the idea of greater European responsibility, but they do not want to be sucked back into a security organization that can loosely be described as Nato's integrated structure Mark II.

However, the weakness of the French position today is the same as it was in 1966. It is one thing for France to opt out, but suppose the Germans, Italians, or British were to do the same? If those countries decided on a purely national defence, linked in a sort of loose co-operation with their allies, there would be no effective defence of Western Europe at all.

## No more truck with terror legitimized

Dublin By refusing to extradite the Maze escapee Dermot Finucane and Owen Carron, wanted in Northern Ireland on firearms charges, the Irish Supreme Court has asserted "the right of individuals as a form of political activity, to raise an army and wage certain forms of war in the name of the Irish people against the wishes of the vast majority".

The words are those of Garret FitzGerald, the former Irish prime minister and now a respected elder statesman. He does not exaggerate. The two decisions — Finucane last month, Carron last week — follow a ruling by the same court on March 1 concerning Article 2 of the Irish Constitution, which declares: "The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas."

Taken together, the court's three decisions provide judicial legitimacy for the IRA's campaign of violence for the reintegration of Ireland. In view of this, the British government should reconsider the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

When the agreement was signed in November 1985, Mrs Thatcher and her ministers seem to have assumed that Article 2 had somehow become inert or irrelevant. They should now take note that it is very much alive, and is binding on the government, which is Britain's partner in that singularly equivocal agreement.

In handing down the Supreme Court's unanimous decision of March 1, finding the Anglo-Irish Agreement to be compatible with the Republic's 1937 Constitution, Chief Justice Finlay declared that "the reintegration of the national territory is a constitutional imperative".

This of course makes nonsense of Article 1 of the agreement, as understood by Britain — that article, both parties "affirm that any change in the status of Northern Ireland would only come about with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland". The British side assumed — imprudently — that, for both signatories, "the status of Northern Ireland" meant its status as part of the United Kingdom, but it is now clear that for the Irish signatory, Northern Ireland has no legitimate status other than as part of the national territory of the Republic of Ireland.

There is a link between the "constitutional imperative" decision of the Supreme Court and the subsequent extradition decisions. This was apparent in Mr Justice Walsh's far-reaching ruling in the case of Finucane and James Clarke (March 13), quoted by me on this page last month, that people charged with politically motivated offences should not be extradited "when the objective of those offences [is] to secure Irish unity". If that ruling is maintained by the court in future cases, no IRA man can ever again be extradited.



After a series of Dublin Supreme Court decisions benefiting the IRA, Conor Cruise O'Brien sees an urgent need for Britain to review the Anglo-Irish Agreement

The Walsh ruling overthrew a 1987 decision (*Russell v. Fanning*) that efforts to integrate the national territory through force of arms involved a usurpation of the functions of government; they could therefore not be deemed to be "political", and so did not escape extradition.

Politically, the most serious aspect of this series of decisions is the overturning of the doctrine that paramilitary violence in the cause of unity usurps the functions of government. Legally, that doctrine may have found its first expression in Ireland in 1987, but politically it is much older. The first government of the state maintained it rigorously and so, after 1933, did Eamon de Valera's Fianna Fail.

De Valera's constitution asserted the unity of the national territory, but it was for the elected government, and it alone, to determine how progress towards unity was to be achieved. Under de Valera and his immediate successor, Sean Lemass, efforts by the IRA to wage war in Northern Ireland or in Britain were treated as if they were attacks on the Irish state itself. Ironically, it now appears that de Valera, in punishing those who do-it-yourself efforts at integrating the national territory, may have been in breach of his own constitution.

The irreducible articles in the Irish Constitution always had a tendency to legitimize the IRA,

but until last month that tendency was held in check by the doctrine — accepted in principle by all parties in the Republic — that usurpation of the functions of the state was illegitimate. Now that this doctrine has been struck down by the Supreme Court in the Clarke and Finucane cases, the IRA's war is legitimized by Article 2 together with Article 3 ("pending the reintegration of the national territory..."). The IRA has become a constitutional organization without ceasing to be a military one.

If the IRA is not usurping the functions of government by waging war, what is it doing? Can its war perhaps be seen as supplementing the functions of the Republic's elected government? I fear that this is the implication of the recent decisions. The "constitutional imperative" to reintegrate the national territory is binding on all. But there are different ways of fulfilling it. The elected government is deemed to be pursuing it through non-violent means, including the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Other concerned citizens — including the IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army — seek to do so through violence. Both methods are equally legitimate.

In the shadow of these decisions, it is exceedingly dangerous for the British government to continue to operate the

Anglo-Irish Agreement. If it does so, it will be seen by all sections of Irish public opinion — nationalists as well as Unionists, moderates as well as extremists — as tamely acquiescing in an irreducible claim directed against a part of the United Kingdom. That acquiescence will be interpreted as connivance; yet another signal — following the Cyprus analogy of Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland Secretary, in November — that Britain is quietly preparing to pull out.

Assuming that it intends no such abandonment, the British government should take a much firmer line than it has yet done. There is no point in hiding and puffing over extradition, the issue which so far seems to have caused most concern in London. Matters have gone far beyond that. Mrs Thatcher should now talk to Mr Haughey on the following lines.

"I understand you are now under a 'constitutional imperative' to acquire Northern Ireland. Very well. But we also are under a constitutional imperative: to maintain the integrity of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. As these imperatives are in conflict, the Anglo-Irish Agreement has become inoperable."

In the short term, so firm a stance would strain Anglo-Irish relations. But in the middle and long terms, it would put those relations on a much healthier footing. At present, all the Irish democratic parties, except Mr Haughey's Fianna Fail, are in favour of amending Articles 2 and 3, in order to terminate the territorial claim. Fianna Fail would come round to amendment once it found that Britain was treating that claim seriously. And it must be taken seriously, now that it has been found to legitimize the IRA's "war" over Northern Ireland.

Woodrow Wyatt on the need to support the Hong Kong plan

## Think again, Mr Tebbit

Next week in the Commons Mr Norman Tebbit aims to defeat the Government over Hong Kong. He depends on the backing of the Labour Party and as many as 80 Tory MPs. To contemplate such an action with the Government in its present troubles is a stunning act of disloyalty. If he succeeds, he will severely damage the Conservatives' general election prospects.

Mr Tebbit misunderstands the Hong Kong situation. In 1962 we took away the full British passports, to which 3.5 million of the nearly six million Hong Kongers would otherwise now be entitled. Though they too live in dependent territories, the Gibraltarians and the Falklanders retain theirs. But they are European, as well as few in number. The immoral withdrawal of Hong Kongers' passports came from the fear of Britain becoming too multi-racial, against the will of the population. This fear has been heightened because the crime rate of those of Caribbean origin, particularly Jamaican, is higher than that of other ethnic minorities, and by the antics of some Muslims calling for the death of Salman Rushdie.

So Mr Tebbit utters a distinctly racist note about Hong Kongers. With the sublime conceit of many British, he thinks that most of the 50,000 householders and their families to whom the Government intends to offer full passports long to settle here. I think that Britain is the best country in the world, but this is not the view of Hong Kongers. For some years 90 per cent of Hong Kong's permanent emigrants have gone to Canada, the US or Australia. For a multitude of reasons, including the climate and the welcome they get in those countries, Britain is just about the last choice of Hong Kongers.

Mr Tebbit will not get it into his head that the issue of a small number of passports to Hong Kongers is designed to hold in place those essential to the functioning of the economy until July 1997, when Peking takes over. If Peking became intolerably tyrannical, they could escape, but for the great majority, Britain would be merely a staging post.

Because of the lack of full British passports, thousands of key people are leaving Hong Kong to get foreign residential qualifications. In 1980-86, the average yearly outflow was 20,600. Last year it was 42,000. This year the best figures available indicate it will be 55,000. The closer to 1997, the greater will be the outflow, leaving Hong Kong without those essential to its adequate functioning.

This concerns us, not just Hong Kongers. We have huge interests there and its collapse would be a calamity for Britain and China. That is why, despite Peking's attacks on the projected British passports, it will not dishonour them, even supposing it were administratively pos-

sible, which it is not. In accepting non-Hong Kong residents as 20 per cent of the Legislative Assembly after 1997, Peking shows its realism.

Since last July, after the bloody events in Tiananmen Square, opinion polls in Britain have recorded a drop in support for the granting of passports to Hong Kongers from 61 per cent to the poll in *The Independent on Sunday* last weekend which found that 65 per cent are against. This poll displayed an unpleasant streak of racism, including 67 per cent saying they wanted no more Jews. Those who aspire to be statesmen should not pander to such latent, I hope temporary, racism.

Labour shamelessly follows the same route as Mr Tebbit, hypocritically demanding more passports for all Hong Kongers (an impossibility) or none. It brazenly claims that the Government's selection system is aimed at helping only the rich, and therefore must be defeated. Of the 50,000 householders to be offered passports, only 500 are those of rich entrepreneurs (who could doubtless get British passports anyway, as they are available to anyone with an investment of £200,000 plus residence). The rest are teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers, computer programmers, accountants, business managers, administrators, civil servants, police and the like. If too many leave before 1997, Hong Kong will be crippled.

Although Hong Kongers feel the number of passports on offer is far too niggardly, there has been little protest that the selection system is unfair, and there is a recognition that the British government, certainly at the moment, has gone as far as it can. If those selected stay, it will give more confidence to all to remain, and even Peking, after it has got over its tantrums, will acknowledge that the scheme is helpful to Hong Kong's future.

It is sad to see the Labour Party, which once contained many idealists, however misguided, blatantly playing the racist card. This is in the hope of winning votes from Mrs Thatcher without caring about the unsavoury means. However, there may be some decent Labour MPs too ashamed of their party's unpleasant policy to vote for it. Also, some North Ireland MPs and those led by Mr Paddy Ashdown, and Dr Owen will support the Government. Yet there may be a sizeable number of Tory MPs, many for reasons unconnected with Hong Kong, determined to back Mr Tebbit's wish to defeat the Government.

Their success would foolishly jeopardize their chances of winning the general election in 1992. May I suggest to Mr Tebbit that he has had his say, we all know where he stands on Hong Kong, and that he would gain stature if he were now to refrain from stabbing his own government.

THERE is a prawn on my shoe.

The man on my right is rabbiting on captivatively about the threat of the core curriculum to all we have and hold, and the woman on my left is being no less fascinating about the gratuitous degradation of slopping-out, and my head is swivelling sociably between the two and giving every appearance of bi-polar commitment, but what it is really thinking about is the prawn on my shoe.

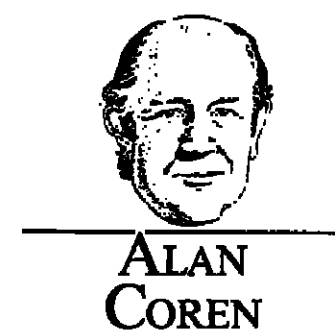
One of the many things it is thinking about the prawn on my shoe is whether the people to its left and right are also thinking about the prawn on my shoe. I have not noticed them glance down, but when I turn to the woman on my left, how can I be sure that the man on my right is not staring at my toecap?

For that is where the prawn is. When I say it is on my shoe, I do

## Hiding under a canapé of shame

not mean I have trodden it on to my sole, I mean I am concentrating on not treading it on to my sole, which is what could very well happen if it dislodges itself from my toecap. If that were to happen, it would flatten itself on to my host's magnificent Bokhara rug. That would do the magnificent Bokhara rug no good at all. I am still holding the outer wall of the vol-au-vent case from which the prawn recently fell. Soon after I took the vol-au-vent from the proffered tray, its floor fell out, and the prawn fell after it. I did not know this had happened, because I was engaged in the core curriculum debate at the time, and it seemed rude to sink

my teeth into the vol-au-vent while the bloke was talking, so I held it for a bit, and when a pause allowed me to turn to the woman on my left, the plan was to bite the vol-au-vent as I swivelled, which was when I noticed that the floor had fallen out, and that the prawn was no longer there. I glanced down, and I saw it on my shoe. It is a sledge shoe, which gives maximum adhesion to a fallen prawn, especially when the prawn has goo on it. The goo is a mixed blessing: with average luck, it will keep the prawn on my toecap while I sidle somewhere private and remove it, but if I hang about, the goo will do the sledge no good at all. You know sledge.



ALAN COREN

You will ask why I do not bend quickly and pluck the prawn off. That is because I have not explained that this is Sunday morning at a house where the rooms, though delightful, are not

quite large enough for the huge number of charming folk who have convened for drinks, so that we are all packed nose to chin, with, moreover, fully occupied hands. I have a glass in one, and the remains of a vol-au-vent in the other. In order to pluck the prawn off my toecap, I should have to ask either the man on my right — who is now in full spate on the outrageous excision of English Literature from the syllabus — to hold my glass, or the woman on my left — who is now addressing the matter of four men occupying a cell originally designed for one — to hold my vol-au-vent case.

I should then have to sort of concertina myself downwards,

thereby drawing considerable attention to what I was attempting covertly to go down after. And even if nobody saw what I was going down after, they would unquestionably see what I came up with. I should have a prawn in my hand.

I shall just have to excuse myself and walk out of the room, very carefully. I am doing that now, smiling at people so that they will not look down and wonder why this man is limping about with a prawn on his shoe. I am on the stairs now, and the prawn is going up and down very gingerly, as the pair of us look for a lavatory so that one of us can put down the glass and the vol-au-

vent case and throw the other one down the pan.

I have found the lavatory. I have taken the prawn from my toecap, and pulled the chain.

I have looked into the pan to make sure the prawn has gone. I have made sure it hasn't. It is circling gently on the surface. It did not occur to me that is what prawns do, alive or dead. They are hydrodynamic.

I have come quickly out of the lavatory now, and look who is smiling at me and waiting to come in! It is my host. When he sees the prawn, what will he wonder? Who can say?

I know only what I shall wonder. I shall wonder whether I prefer to be remembered as a guest who threw his food down the lavatory to one who trod it into the carpet; and I shall probably wonder it for quite a long time.





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## DRUGS AND REALISM

What is grandly called the international war on drugs has come to London this week with governments vying with each other over the money, weapons and commitment they will hurl into the fight. In Britain, the thunder of struggle may seem distant, echoing from the streets of America and the jungles of Thailand and Peru. Ministers can thus sound as belligerent as they please. Their mind-set is that of generals in some far-off trench war: send more troops, make one more push, victory is round the corner.

Yet a subtle shift in strategy is now detectable from America, where the war is not far off and where defeat stares every city politician in the face. When George Shultz, Milton Friedman, past White House drugs advisers and some 40 per cent of American public opinion are for relaxing criminal sanctions on drug users, then fresh ideas are clearly in the air. Even George Bush, who had seemed ready to make the cocaine war his personal Vietnam, is now turning his attention from the supply to the demand side of this booming market.

The harmfulness of heroin, cocaine and their derivatives is not the issue. An ideal society might wish to be rid of them — though conventional opinion must accept that many users of cocaine see it as no more vulnerable to abuse than alcohol or nicotine, while cannabis is acknowledged to be less harmful or addictive than either. The boundary between what is legal and illegal in narcotics is a matter of past history and culture, which is why many blacks and young people are cynical at their narcotics being banned by those who see drunkenness as virility, permit alcohol advertising and accept sponsorship from tobacco firms.

What is now giving the illegal drugs their international status is not their existence but the social, economic and legal context in which they are traded, in other words the consequences of their illegality. The vast and ever-growing drugs industry is the modern world's most graphic illustration of economic anarchy at work.

The upsurge in favour of decriminalization in America is due to crude realism. Discouraging consumption through prohibition has failed. Cocaine is so widely used as to be the country's most valuable import. Tens of thousands of Americans work in the industry. Billions of dollars are at stake. Working-class, non-white Americans use illegal narcotics in a wholly unregulated fashion. Because the market is unrestrained, drugs are traded free of duty and therefore offer a cheaper escapism than alcohol. Such huge, illicit profits mean

that 70-80 per cent of all America's urban crime is drug-related.

Few observers of this scene doubt that, somehow, the next decade will see at least part of this international business brought within legal control. Only when supply is taxed and regulated can criminals be removed from the supply chain, and demand tackled through education and taxation. An unwelcome industry which cannot be contained, let alone banned, must be regulated some other way. This is the lesson of the pre-war prohibition of alcohol in America and of off-course betting in Britain.

A step that merits wider debate in Britain is to take cannabis off the banned list. Dealing would be removed from the racketeers and from the corruption of their burgeoning opponents among customs officers, policemen and globe-trotting defence consultants. Proceeds from taxing cannabis could be directed into encouraging the young to avoid all forms of narcotics, legal and illegal. Whether or not this led to switching from nicotine to cannabis is immaterial, though cannabis is the less addictive drug. The key is to remove cannabis consumption from criminal culture.

Such a step would not be easy, any more than would any wider decriminalization — as American politicians are finding. We all have a curiously deep aversion to the ways in which other generations and cultures go about relieving life's harsher realities. One man's drunken spree is another's bad trip, the one deserving a sympathetic smile, the other a savage jail sentence.

Politicians have a duty to lead as well as follow public opinion in matters of social behaviour. But if they lead too far ahead, they will lose touch, lose support and defeat the end in view. Drugs are one such case. The best that might come out of yesterday's conference is an acceptance that more of the old repression simply will not work. The drugs trade is now rotting whole areas of international relations, and rotting the heart of cities in Europe as well as America. It is crime that feeds on itself. Combating it requires not belligerence, but clear thinking, courage and common sense. An increasing number of Americans realize this. Europe's democracies have yet to show the same realism.

Pharmacological escape is a threat to any civilized community — past, present and future. But it is a controllable threat. Hysteria jeopardizes that containment and turns threat into reality. Getting a grip on our response to drugs may be as difficult a challenge as getting a grip on drugs themselves.

## AN ARCHAIC LAW

The High Court confirmed the view of the legal textbooks yesterday that the English law of blasphemy does not apply to non-Christian religions. It ruled that a magistrate was right not to allow summonses to be issued against the publishers of *The Satanic Verses*. The three judges correctly resisted pressure from Muslims to use their power to interpret the common law to extend the limits of this offence, saying it was only for Parliament to do so by statute if that was what was called for.

Parliament, if it is to take any action in this anachronistic area of law, would be better advised to repeal it altogether. The concept of an offence to God — which is of the essence of blasphemy — is now beyond the philosophical horizon of most of the English people, even believers, who have long settled for the view that religion is a proper area for fierce debate and controversy.

As a result of yesterday's ruling it is now established beyond legal doubt that the only doctrine of God protected from assault by law is the doctrine of the Church of England, and the one question remaining is whether there is some residual national interest in preserving that unique exemption. It is very doubtful whether the Church of England itself needs such protection, even if society was still minded to grant it.

The logic of the diversity of faiths — part of the pluralism and multi-culturalism that that Church has itself embraced as a permanent feature of English society — is that in terms of their claims to truth, the law should treat them all equally. There is no special reason why claims to religious truth should be protected, even from scurrilous abuse, when other claims to truth are not. There are many things which Englishmen hold most dear to themselves, not all of them recognizable under the flag of faith.

The refusal of summonses to bring *The*

*Satanic Verses* affair to court was based on a strict interpretation of the blasphemy law as it now stands, and says nothing about what might have been the outcome had the judges felt an extension of the common law was appropriate. So before the members of the British Muslim community who brought yesterday's case draw too many wrong conclusions from their frustration, they must face the fact that such a prosecution had it been allowed, would surely have failed.

For had this book been directed at the person of Jesus Christ, the degree of unpleasant innuendo implied against Muhammad in *The Satanic Verses* would hardly have led any reasonable jury to regard it as criminal. Most jurymen would not have known that the text was capable of any offensive meaning, without a great deal of complex and possibly tendentious exegesis from Muslim scholars.

To be blasphemous in law a statement must be extreme, and plain to everyone in its offensive meaning. Yet the real Muslim complaint against Salman Rushdie, which was not put to the court because it was obvious the court would take no notice of it, is not that he wrote what he wrote, but that he wrote as a Muslim.

In the practical world of politics, the reform or abolition of the blasphemy law is a nettle no party will be eager to grasp. If they lack the courage to do so, they will opt to leave the offence of blasphemy to wither on the vine. The most that might be attempted is an adjustment of the public order laws so that insults against someone's religion are taken as seriously as insults against his skin colour in the reckoning of conduct likely to lead to breaches of the peace. While that approach may be worth a second look, it should not be seen as compensation for the repeal of the law against blasphemy. Public order is a different issue.

## SAVE OUR ANTHEM

The National Anthem is criticized more often than the weather and usually for the same reason. For the Church of England to start writing it, however, is like the Government attacking the Tamworth manifesto. The moment has come to defend our national song.

The Church's Liturgical Commission has proposed that the bellicose lyrics embedded in verse two should be abandoned, at least during the Remembrance Day service in November. Instead of invoking God's help to "scatter our enemies . . ." it wants to revert to a 19th-century version which is more concerned with the brotherhood of man.

As few people outside the Liturgical Commission know more than the words of the first verse anyway, the issue may seem academic. It will come before the General Synod, however, and no doubt will abruptly cease to be so.

The Church's intervention is curiously timed. The Scottish Rugby Union, for example, recently selected a new anthem of its own. Discarding "Scotland the Brave" as far too tame, it opted for the sweet-sounding "Flower of Scotland", which evokes bloodthirsty thoughts of Bannockburn.

This month the Japanese reintroduced their old anthem, banned after the Second World War, into their schools. Moreover, before hastening to condemn, one should recall what the French sing in the Marseillaise: "To arms, to arms, ye brave, the avenging sword

unsheath." Even the Welsh, a peace-loving nation out of season, happily talk about spilling some blood in "Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau", albeit in the noble cause of freedom.

Anthems are generally belligerent and some have recently had their sinews stiffened. An American Congressman has admittedly been crusading to abandon "The Star-Spangled Banner", which celebrates a victory by US troops over the British in 1814, in favour of "America the Beautiful". But this is partly because most fellow Americans do not know the words.

Criticism of "God Save the Queen" is usually directed at its music. This certainly lacks the *elan* of the French, the gentle dignity of the German or the rolling sonorous melody of the Russian, which flows through every Olympics like the Volga (there are those who are trying to revive the Tsarist anthem, but the one brought in by the Bolsheviks is better).

A number of composers have tried to pep up "God Save the Queen" with mixed success. Elgar is perhaps the best (hardly surprising). Benjamin Britten's is the most argued over. Even Beethoven wrote seven variations on it, which were picked by Mr Nigel Lawson for his recent choice of *Desert Island Discs*.

Britain built an empire whistling this tune, which remains a reassuring part of its heritage, like brown boots, chestnut trees and summer rain. Perhaps that is what Mr Lawson had in mind. Critics tamper with it at their peril.

## Seeking the right time for exams

*From the President of the Girls' Schools Association*  
Sir, Ever since last September, considerable anxiety has been expressed from schools in all sectors, much of it in your columns, about the very early start to the GCSE examinations timetable for 1990. It starts in mid-May, two whole weeks before the summer half term, with major subjects like maths, English, French, and history, thus shortening teaching time and wasting the end of the summer term.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education and Science, reassured us in writing that she expected changes to be made for 1991. Yet what do we see in the proposed draft timetable? The same indifference to the needs of schools; the same early start (May 13); all the French, history, and physics, half the maths, and four other subjects before half term. One minor correction only has been made: English Literature has been moved onwards.

Why should the convenience of examination boards override educational priorities? Why should pupils be deprived of that invaluable half term of revision and confidence-building consolidation? Why is this timetable CSE-driven, rather than following the old O-level pattern? And why must we suffer a span of six entire weeks from the beginning of GCSE to the end of A level without an exam-free day?

The boards now all charge an astonishing £15 or more per subject-entry. They should be able to afford enough examiners to cope with a marking time lessened by one week, preferably two. Yours faithfully, TATIANA MACAIRE, President, Girls' Schools Association, 130 Regent Road, Leicester, April 2.

## Poll tax disquiet

*From Mr Lyndon Harrison, MEP for Cheshire West (Socialist Labour)*

Sir, Now that we have been well and truly lumbered with the poll tax, it might be of interest to know what other European Community states do about raising local taxation. Significantly, not one of our 11 partners possesses any system remotely like the Government's community charge. All employ a combination of taxes where grants from the central exchequer are supplemented by some form of property/land tax. Other forms of taxes include levies on tourism and the fire service (Portugal); alcohol, tobacco and petrol taxes (Italy); and levies on the ownership of dogs and untidy gardens (Spain).

I'm not recommending that we take up all these suggestions. Nevertheless, if Mrs Thatcher had looked over the Channel she might have discovered a fairer system of local taxation based on an individual's ability to pay. But when has this tunnel-visioned Government ever been prepared to learn any lesson from Europe? Yours sincerely, LYNDON HARRISON, 2 Stanley Street, Chester, Cheshire, April 2.

*From Dr B. D. J. Leary*  
Sir, During all the discussion about the community charge the most vital question does not seem to have been asked, that is, do we need local government at all? Can there, for instance, be any justification for a different standard of schooling in one part of the country from another or for home helps to be free in one place and charged for in another? Do the

## Canterbury succession

*From Mr. R. J. M. Tolhurst*  
Sir, I think Mr Clifford Longley (article, March 31) will find that for the Canterbury succession, there has been in the past at least as much a presumption in favour of London as of York, though, of course, that will not be so in the forthcoming instance.

As to the possibility of the appointment of the Church of Ireland Primate, Dr Robin Eames, to the Archbishopric of Canterbury, it is worth noting that Saint Augustine himself, and several of his successors in the Middle Ages, were not Englishmen. But all had been members of the established church of the Western Christendom of those days. (Theodore of Tarsus was a Greek during a period of full communion between Eastern and Western Christendom).

## War horses

*From Mr Desmond Keogh*  
Sir, Your report of March 29 on the war horse exhibition, including a photograph of Marengo, prompts me to mention another war horse of fame called Comanche. He was ridden by my granduncle, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Myles W. Keogh, into the battle of the Little Big Horn between the US 7th Cavalry and the Sioux Indians on June 25, 1876. Two days after the battle Comanche was found badly wounded but still alive and the sole living thing to have survived the battle. He remained unharmed but always paraded with the 7th Cavalry until his death in 1891. He is now preserved in the Kansas Museum in Kansas City. Yours faithfully, D. B. KEOGH, Brook Farm, Northmore, Oxfordshire.

## Journalists' duty to protect source

*From Mr Tom Welsh*  
Sir, Lord Bridge (Law Report, April 5) says he has not heard of any campaign in the media calling for changes to section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, which gave a presumptive right to journalists to protect their sources. But why should there have been such a campaign? In section 10 Parliament expressed itself with exceptional clarity. The section said:

No court may require a person to disclose, nor is any person guilty of contempt of court for refusing to disclose, the source of information contained in a publication for which he is responsible, unless it is established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime.

The need for such a right became clear after the case in 1980 when Granada was ordered to reveal the identity of its British Steel mole. Journalists were well pleased with this modest shelter. But with four well-aimed blows in nine years the judges have demolished it, largely by their wide interpretations of the grounds on which the protection may be overridden.

First they explained national security. In the Sarah Tisdall case against *The Guardian*, in 1983, the Court of Appeal ordered identification of the source, after explaining that although publication of a particular document posed no threat there was a risk that a person who leaked one document might leak another, with serious consequences for national security.

With blow number two the Lords virtually destroyed the section by explaining that "necessary" did not mean "essential" — as the dictionary would suggest and as Parliament presumably intended — but somewhere be-

tween indispensable on the one hand and useful or expedient on the other. In 1988, Jeremy Warner of *The Independent* was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £100,000 costs for refusing to name his source.

With blow number three the Lords explained "prevention of crime". Warner had argued that a journalist had to disclose his source only if identification would allow steps to be taken to prevent the commission of "a particular identifiable future crime"; but the Lords said it was sufficient to show that inspectors were probing into insider dealing and they needed to know Warner's source for the purpose of their inquiry.

Now blow number four. The protection may be overridden in the interests of justice and we learn that the late Lord Diplock was wrong when he said this meant "the administration of justice in the course of legal proceedings in a court of law". Apparently it can simply refer to the wish of a private company to discipline a disloyal employee "notwithstanding that no legal proceedings might be necessary to achieve this end".

It is now difficult to think of any occasion when a journalist might wish to protect his source on any important issue and be confident that he will be able to defend himself under section 10. The judges find themselves doing the intricate "balancing exercise" they so much enjoy just as if section 10 had never reached the statute book. It is time Parliament put its thinking cap on again, though how it can express its intentions more clearly it is difficult to know.

Yours faithfully, TOM WELSH, 2/3 Broom Close, Broughton-in-Furness, Cumbria, April 5.

## Home care costs

*From the Chief Executive of the Brendoncare Foundation*

Sir, The letter (April 6) from the Director of Age Concern England and others is a timely reminder that the distress experienced by people in residential and nursing care who are dependent on income support will not be alleviated by the token increase of £10 recently announced by the Government. The actual cost of care far exceeds this and an increase of £50 for residential and £100 for nursing care would be a more realistic award.

It is comforting to know that the Government intends to initiate research on the actual cost of care. Previous studies have been both narrowly based, selective and secretive with results that bore no relation to the known facts. It is to be hoped that a wide spread of providers of care will be consulted so that there can be confidence in the results. If the study does show that a substantial increase in funding is required I hope that the report is not conveniently shelved.

Yours sincerely, ANN RICH, Chief Executive, Brendoncare Foundation, Brendon, Park Road, Winchester, Hampshire, April 6.

## Spinal cord disease

*From President of the Royal College of Radiologists*

Sir, Dr J. L. G. Thomson (April 5) mentions the advantages of magnetic resonance imaging used to assess spinal cord disease without the need to insert contrast into the spinal space. I fully support his views.

It is, however, a fact that the United Kingdom does not possess enough of these scanners to meet the present-day needs of the patients who could benefit from their use. At the present time there are less than 25 in the United Kingdom, and there are approximately 67 in San Francisco and over 70 in Los Angeles, apart from other American cities. It would be wrong to suppose that the number of magnetic resonance scanners in the United States indicates how many are needed in the United Kingdom, but it is a fact that we have fewer of these scanners than other medically developed Western countries.

There is agreement within the medical profession that magnetic resonance scanning is unparalleled as a scanner for brain and spinal cord disease and the profession holds the strong view that more of these scanners, which do not use X-ray beams, should be supplied by the National Health Service.

Yours faithfully, OSCAR CRAIG, President, Royal College of Radiologists, 38 Portland Place, W1, April 5.

## Making it clear

*From Mr Gregor Mackie*  
Sir, The renewal notice for my television licence needed several minutes of attention to discover how to pay the fee by cheque.

I wrote to the Director General to comment on this lack of clarity and I am reassured by the reply: "The renewal notices are constantly under review and we are indeed exploring new avenues in the search for a form which is comprehensive by all".

Yours faithfully, GREGOR MACKIE, 11 Crownwell Road, Teddington, Middlesex, April 4.

## 'War crime' of broken promise

*From Mr Norman F. Dacey*  
Sir, Now that the search for war criminals is officially under way in England, may I make a point publicly? During the course of World War II, great numbers of Russians who had been captured on the Eastern front were put into prisoner of war camps where they were virtually starved. With a promise of better food, the Germans persuaded many such prisoners to pick up a shovel and join labour battalions. As a matter of survival, many accepted.

Later, these Russians were persuaded to join German troops in fighting the British and Americans, with a promise that they would receive regular army rations and would under no circumstances be sent to the Eastern front to face their countrymen. Hundreds of thousands accepted the offer.

As then director of psychological warfare operations on General Dwight Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters staff I agreed that a wide variety of Allied psychological warfare material should be directed at these troops to persuade them to surrender. Our prisoner interrogation disclosed that they lived in terror of being sent back to their homeland when the war was over.

With the approval of the Allied governments, Supreme Headquarters made a solemn promise to these men that if they would surrender, they would be transferred to a safe area for the duration of hostilities and would then be set free. Under no circumstances would they be returned involuntarily to Russia.

That promise was embodied in a leaflet, millions of copies of which were showered upon the Russians facing our troops. We emphasized that we understood the circumstances which led them to fighting beside the Germans and explained that we did not regard them as the enemy. We gave our word of honour that if they surrendered they would never be returned to Russia.

The leaflet operation was a huge success. Thousands of Russians laid down their arms. But when the war was over and those of us who had carried it out were succeeded by others, those thousands of Russians who had accepted our promise were, to a man, handed back to Russia to be killed or imprisoned. The part I played in this "war crime" will haunt me the rest of my life.

Now that we are hunting for war criminals, why do we not ascertain who were the individuals responsible for this war crime? Who gave the order? Who carried it out? No need to put them in jail — just identify them and let the history books record their names.

Yours etc, NORMAN F. DACEY, 16 Lansdown Crescent, Bath, Avon.

## Recruiting scientists

*From Mr Douglas Stevenson*  
Sir, Mr D. B. L. George (April 4), makes the unsubstantiated assertion that if we curtail our investment in pure science, be it in teaching or research, we will lose our competitive edge in manufacturing. Similar arguments are put forward regularly in favour of bringing our training in industry up to the same level as that in West Germany or Japan.

For the past 32 years I have worked at general management level in the high-technology sector. My peak responsibility was as a group executive of a worldwide US-controlled multi-national, responsible for a major division employing 35,000 people, of whom 25,000 operated in plants located outside the UK.

Never once with my UK operations did I ever fail because of lack of innovation. In most cases my British managers and engineers were superior in their creative abilities to their West German and Japanese counterparts. Failure always resulted from the painful but pedestrian fact that the British have a lower capacity for sustained disciplined tedium than the Germans or Japanese.

This doesn't mean that investment in science, advanced technological development or training doesn't matter, but that without adding the fourth dimension, we will just make more people happy during our gradual but inevitable economic decline.

Yours faithfully, DOUGLAS STEVENSON, 28 Grange Park, Bishop's Cleeve, Hertfordshire.

## Salad days

*From Mrs Audrey Tait*  
Sir, Last weekend I made a salad for the family lunch. The cucumber came from Holland, the celery from Spain, the parsley from Israel, the tomatoes from the Canaries, the apples from France, the beetroot from Poland (I could have bought that from Sweden), the spring onions from Egypt, the eggs were certainly in an English box.

The watercress was from Hampshire; horseradish from Hampshire! The shopping for all this was done in my normal supermarkets and local stores.

Yours in puzzlement, AUDREY TAIT, 48 Marlborough Mansions, Cannon Hill, NW6, April 5.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01) 782 5044.





BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
April 2, 1935

## Forthcoming marriages

## Anniversaries

## Latest wills

**GUY WILLETT**

# JAMES MACNABB

## LADY KEITH

# University news

## SCIENCE REPORT

## Mammoth's sure footing

## Polytechnic news

مَكْذُومَاتُ الْأَعْيَانِ







Pianist John Lill, something of an exception to the modern rule of high-profile, strongly promoted musicians, talks to Barry Millington

## Soft-peddalling fame

In these days of media hype and crude commercialization of the arts, it comes as something of a relief to talk to an artist concerned with integrity and spiritual values in music-making. The pianist John Lill has never been one to cultivate a glamorous image, preferring to pursue his career in a dedicated and serious fashion.

How, then, did he respond to the latest promotional techniques of record companies, in which photogenic female cellists drape themselves over couches, and violinists sport Aston Villa gear? His answer is tactful: Nigel Kennedy is a "marvellous player", has "great talent", there's "no need for him to go to all those extremes, but if it gives him pleasure...".

On the other hand Lill, who came to international prominence when he won the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in 1970, is encouraged by technical advances in record-making. He loves "the incredible quality of digital recorded sound as compared with the frying of eggs and bacon", especially as the piano is especially vulnerable to wow and flutter.

These improvements are one reason why he is coming round again to the idea of making recordings. He hopes to record all Prokofiev's sonatas later this year, and a new version of the Beethoven concertos next year, this time with Walter Weller and the CBSO.

Of earlier masters, his opinion varies according to the repertoire in question. Horowitz "in certain repertoires" he admires especially. Schnabel he finds "amazing in some ways, very irritating in others". Richter "I find compelling, especially with the Russians and Schumann", while Arrau he prefers as a concert artist rather than in the studio.

On matters of interpretation and choice of instruments, Lill holds firm, if unfashionable, views. "Pianists should know the composer's Italian markings as well as the notes themselves." Often these are more reliable, he feels, than the metronome markings. The first movement of Beethoven's "Hammerklavier" Sonata, for example, is marked at "minim equals 138" - but also only "allegro". "Surely if Beethoven had wanted it to be that fast he'd have put 'Presto' or 'Prestissimo'?"

"Another problem with metronome marks", he continues, "is that no two people can play a piece of music in the same tempo with the same conviction. Similarly, no two people speak at the same speed. I am inclined to gabbie; some people are far more effective when they speak slowly."

He invokes the interpretations of Arrau and Horowitz, or Furtwängler and Toscanini: "Totally different speeds, both totally convincing". The acoustics of the hall must also govern the tempo. "When you start a concert, you have to make allowances for the curtains, or the number of ladies wearing fur coats."

Lill prefers a modern Steinway grand, and a "German rather than American". Was he ever tempted to experiment with a 19th-century instrument such as Beethoven would have known? "Tempted, but I do not think I would do it seriously. For one thing, people are used to the sound of modern instruments: it's a big shock suddenly to be launched into quite a different sound. For another, although the idea is very interesting, I cannot help feeling that most composers would have approved of modern developments in instruments."

He does feel that there are lessons to be

learned from the old instruments. But on the whole "instruments are almost secondary; we have to get behind, to the composer's mind, to the original inspiration".

Lill's self-effacing character informs his music-making too. "The ultimate aim of the performer is to disappear. Once you start getting in the way by 'interpreting' with a capital 'I', I think you are on the wrong path. Interfering, more like it. A lot of people teach like that."

He believes strongly in the spiritual powers of music, to the extent that he has had "powerful psychic experiences" during concerts, which have convinced him that "we are in good hands". He also likes walking, bird-watching, astronomy, the countryside. More surprising is that he is a keen radio ham, and has even taken an examination in the subject.

Above all else, he believes in playing only music by which he is convinced. On the dangers of indiscriminate enthusiasms he tells a cautionary tale. Many years ago, he was playing, as a personal favour, a new piece by an Australian composer. The music fell down and was put back upside down. He had to make up the last three pages "by producing the most terrible noise I could muster". At the end there was much applause. The composer "rushed up and said he had never heard a performance so spirited, and he thought the ending in particular was the most passionate he had ever heard. To cap it all, the headline in a leading London paper the next day was 'Lill's superb insight'."

John Lill plays Haydn, Schumann and Beethoven at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tomorrow night.



John Lill: he prefers a modern grand piano, German rather than American

## Testing themselves

CONCERTS

Stephen Pettitt

COE/Holliger  
Barbican Hall

THE Chamber Orchestra of Europe certainly knows how to stimulate its own formidable talents. Within a week it was conducted in two concerts by Roger Norrington and then willingly submitted itself to the equally animated direction of Heinz Holliger for a further brace.

What is more, in the Holliger concerts, it called upon the services of Gidon Kremer, whose near-miraculous abilities and lively, generous musical imagination are perfect complements to this young band.

In his first concert, Kremer played Beethoven's Violin Concerto, opting for Alfred Schmitt's controversial cadenzas, which take the music a long way from its native style. But then so do Beethoven's own cadenzas for his First Piano Concerto, which were written much later than the piece itself. I was not at all upset by Schmitt's potted histories of the virtuoso manner.

The most impressive feature of Kremer's art is that he uses his tone as the basis for an interpretation, not as something self-serving. Consequently he was able to breathe life into this most elusive of concertos, to make it a spontaneous event - full of bold but well-judged nuances such as the naughtily delayed accents of the finale - rather than the ritual it often is, in even the most illustrious hands.

Schmitt's Third Violin Concerto was Kremer's main contribution to the second concert. Here again there was an almost humbling integrity about the playing; the eloquent, slow ending was despatched nervously despite the hazards of its high tessitura, while the more aggressive passages of the middle movement had all the panache of a master swordsman.

This varied, dramatic, concerto, expressly free and unconcerned with moving, also afforded ample opportunity for the COE's wind players to excel (only four string players apart from the soloist are required, and they remain silent until the finale). The performance, of course, was carefully shaped by Holliger.

As an oboist, he is renowned for seeming to play on the edge of his nerves, and a neurotic energy certainly invaded his performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. The COE needed to be at its most alert here; if the risks Holliger took did not always pay due dividends, his approach at least guaranteed that the piece seemed newly exhilarating, if at times too coarse.

## Agent or witness of change?

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

EVER since Ed Murrow made his celebrated *See It Now* documentary on Senator Joseph McCarthy in the early 1950s, the producers have claimed with varying degrees of confidence and conviction that television has the power to effect radical social or political change. But McCarthy had already done himself irreparable damage at the television news hearings, so it is possible that Murrow was only confirming his public suicide.

In this country, a quarter of a century ago, *Cathy Come Home* was similarly credited with changing public feeling about homeless young mothers, but did it drive or merely clamber aboard a bandwagon that was already rolling?

If television is, or has ever been, that powerful Sellafield should be closed down by about next week-end. Last Thursday's *This Week* report, "The Sins of the Fathers", on the genetic dangers to children from the radiation to which their fathers were exposed, was followed last night by *Cutting Edge* (Channel 4), which also used the recent and devastating Gardner Report to explore the contaminated coast of Cumbria and the links between the nuclear reprocessing plant and the incidence of cancer and leukaemia in the children of its workers.

Sellafield was, of course, once called Windscale and will doubtless have to change its name again if present publicity continues to prove this hostile. Last night Michael Burke, who made the first 1983 film about leukaemia in the area, came up with some alarming new statistics.

As the High Court deals with more and more claims for damages, British Nuclear Fuels has paid out half a million pounds in private settlements for cancer victims. Sellafield has the worst safety record after Chernobyl of any nuclear power plant in the world, and its radioactive discharges are now measurable not only along nearby coastlines but also as far inland as Lancaster, which reports radiation levels five times higher than normal.

Meanwhile, however, the "Come to sunny Sellafield" commercials continue to be shown by an independent television network which thinks cigarettes too dangerous to advertise but nuclear processing plants apparently well worth encouraging. Moreover, these commercials have won awards for restoring public confidence in the plant. When asked why they still made no mention of the fact that the Ravensglass Estuary will be contaminated for many years to come, the Sellafield man replied that it was "all a question of emphasis", which deserves to live alongside Mandy Rice-Davies' "Well he would, wouldn't he?" in the annals of classic one-liners.

## Disturbing comparisons give ammunition to lobbyists

Arts Correspondent Simon Tait reports on the Policy Studies Institute's international league table of public arts funding

THE United Kingdom is lagging behind the other cultural centres of the West in its funding commitment, according to *Cultural Trends* Issue 5, a new survey by the Policy Studies Institute which is published today. And it is in the local rather than national arena that the race against other countries is being lost.

Using the latest figures available (1987), the PSI finds that West Germany, France, Holland, Sweden and Canada are all ahead of the UK in their per capita funding of the arts and museums. Of the seven countries surveyed, the UK is ahead only of the United States, where the arts are traditionally the province of corporate sponsorship and private patronage.

For the first time, *Cultural Trends* provides statistical ammunition to support the long-standing grievances of arts lobbyists. "We always knew we were behind places like France and Germany, and said so," says Graham Hitchen of the National Cam-

paign for the Arts. "But the argument was pretty rhetorical, because there was nothing but some vague figures from the early 1980s to back it up."

The PSI found that our central and local purses contributed £9.85 a head, Canada, next up the list, spends almost twice that (£17.40) and Sweden spends nearly three times as much, at £27.80 per capita. However, the United States, the member of the seven with the largest population (four times the size of the next largest, Germany) spends just £2 per citizen on public arts funding.

But the report, compiled by Andrew Feist and Robert Hutchinson, adds a rider to the use of head accounting, the customary way of making comparisons. "Per capita figures have drawbacks at the national level. Much of the

debate about public funding of the arts in the UK over the last decade has centred on the regional imbalances within the UK."

"What can appear as high overall per capita spending levels may only reflect high levels of expenditure within a nation's capital and a more impoverished state of affairs elsewhere. The national per capita figures artificially iron out these imbalances."

So Feist and Hutchinson have looked at the figures from other angles: these look marginally better. Our 1987 arts expenditure of £557 million was ahead of everyone in the set except Germany and France, and in purely central government spending per head we are fourth with £5.3m - but after Sweden, The Netherlands and Canada. As a percentage of gross

national product and in local and regional government expenditure per head we are still sixth out of seven. However, as a percentage of public expenditure we marginally improve, to fifth.

"What comes as a surprise is the lack of spending through local authorities," says the NAC's Hitchen. "We have tended to centralize while the big spenders, Germany and France, have diversified through the regions and made it much more part of the national policy to foster local government patronage."

All is destined to change, of course, following the decisions that the Arts Minister, Richard Luce, has made in the light of the Wilding Report. Funds will be devolved from the Arts Council to regional arts boards.

Hitchen maintains that "France

and Germany have their increases firmly linked with inflation, in some cases kept ahead of it. The lobbyists will be using these figures to push for a more positive approach from both central and local government, but particularly for support from local government."

Last week the Arts Council's departing secretary-general, Luke Rittner, made an impassioned plea to the 20 change-capped authorities not to take the traditional way out of their difficulties by cutting their arts budgets.

One may expect that the new PSI ammunition is going to be used by the arts brigades to fire at central government, not the councils - to make it possible, even statutory, for towns and counties to fall in line with the burghers of Germany and France.

*Cultural Trends* Issue 5 is available from the Policy Studies Institute (01-387 2171), £9.95.

## Prosthetics take precedence over aesthetics

THEATRE

Diane Hill

Cyrano de Bergerac  
Marigny, Paris

THIS Paris revival of Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Marigny is like the leading man's nose: overblown. It is also extravagant and vulgar. Under epic theatre director Robert Hossein, the thwarted love-life and poignant death of the owner of the most famous olfactory organ in the French classical repertoire is clumsily moulded into a rowdy, rabble-rouser of a production, which shouts down the quieter moments of the poetic text and buckles the unashamedly romantic scenario within an excess of out-moded swash.

The best thing about the show is its star, cinema deity Jean-Paul Belmondo. Two seasons ago, Belmondo made a triumphal stage comeback, as Kean in Sartre's play of the same name, after an absence of 27 years. Since then he has carefully conserved his live-performance rarity value. For this second top billing he again goes for a role guaranteed to attract audiences willing to pay prices on a par with those for a night out at the Opéra de la Bastille. He does not short-change them.

Decidedly more macho and a



Maturely macho: Jean-Paul Belmondo as Cyrano de Bergerac dash more mature than other recent French Cyranos (notably Jacques Weber in Jérôme Savary's award-winning 1983 production). Belmondo pleasingly combines an earthy physique with a touching spiritual humility. He copes with "the nose" with commendable panache.

Contemporary paintings of the poet-philosopher Cyrano de Bergerac - on whose life the play is loosely based - show his nose to have been Roman rather than outrageous. Undaunted by his 30

books and crannies of Pierre Simonini's singularly uninspired sets, which while flown in and out with style, crowd the stage with a gratuitous show of big-budget trimmings. Sylvie Foullet's ugly, cumbersome costumes do nothing to alleviate the feeling of high-density theatre.

Short of space, Hossein finds an outlet for his penchant for the excessive through the vocal cords. But chanting chunks of the text in the manner of a team of American cheerleaders reduces its dramatic impact by as much as it raises the decibels. The general ambience is of a Fifties' Broadway production of *The Three Musketeers*, and the acting style is reminiscent of early Errol Flynn. All is at odds with the confines of a conventional acting space. In particular, the wide-angle direction ignores the horse-shoe-shape of Marigny's auditorium, which drastically reduces the field of vision for the many side seats.

Rostand's verbal finesse and stylized romanticism are submerged beneath the bravado. Only in the closing moments of the last act, when Roxane (Béatrice Agenin) discovers too late that the aged, impoverished, dying Cyrano is the writer of the letters that won her heart, are there glimpses of the poetic beauty and the heady potency of a love story that for nigh on a century has retained its ability to bring a lump to the most unsentimental of throats.

## An outrageously good time to be had by all

Tony Patrick

Nonsense  
The Rose

THIS, said to be the only musical on the London Fringe at present, is a sparky, high-energy production. Dan Goggin's peculiar whimsy, seen at the Fortune Theatre in 1987, is the sort of thing an immature Tom Lehrer

might have written for *Mad Magazine*. Involving a preposterous order of nuns, beset by mass-poisoning and barely-suppressed showbiz ambitions, it is said to have developed from a range of greetings-cards.

It says much for the commitment and vitality of the Sister-matic Company, under the direction of Kernin Roberts, that this revival is so entertaining and winning over its 90 minutes without interval.

Special praise must go to keyboard player Anna Sanderson, whose synthesized piano, organ and harpsichord provide always-secure underpinning to the songs. Of the wacky singing sisters themselves, Amanda Lockett has perhaps the strongest voice, as Sister Mary Amnesia, but each of them seizes her chance to make an impact, whether as a ball-dancing novice (Nikki Fulljames), clowning dogbody (Clare Le May), ambitious novice-mistress

(Ruth James), or Mother Superior falling spectacularly from grace (Jennifer Lister).

The often tasteless jokes may shock Roman Catholics and will surely mystify the irreligious; the plot is unashamedly absurd. The energy and full-out commitment of the performers make such considerations almost irrelevant, as they defy you not to enjoy yourself. Well worth the journey to this pub-theatre in Fulham Road.

Joseph Williams on how new Inland Revenue rules compound the financial problems of the great majority of actors

## More taxing roles

IF all the world's a stage, too many men and women want to become players. The membership of the actors' union Equity is 43,000, yet so few parts are available that most performers work professionally for less than three months a year.

Now there is an additional problem. This month sees a change in the tax status of actors working in the theatre. Many new actors will be unable to claim any rebate for their yearly expenditure on essential items such as fares to auditions, and being professionally photographed. With two thirds of the profession earning less than £2,000, every penny counts. Established working actors may be able to escape the ruling, as long as they can certify that they have been self-employed (schedule D tax status) for the last three years.

A characteristic of the acting profession is that it offers short-term contractual work. An actress who moves her audience to tears as Desdemona on the last night of *Othello* finds less sympathy in signing on the dole on Monday morning. Acting becomes a war of attrition: frenzied bouts of activity in the adrenalin of rehearsal and performance, then protracted periods of boredom and waste when unemployed. Performers' moods swing from elevation to enervation.

"You constantly have to return to voice and movement classes, to maintain your confidence," says actress Suzanne Church, who has numerous West End credits. "People think that actors watch TV and eat chocolates when we are not working, but we continually keep up an energy level."

"Money can be a problem," says Judy Wilson, who acted with the National Theatre company under Laurence Olivier. "I'm lucky in always knowing what I'm doing next, but people assume wrongly that all actors earn lots of money. There's always tremendous insecurity." The peripatetic lifestyle, and the exigent earnings of theatre as compared with television, contribute to this. Additionally, performers often pay more for car insurance - their vocation alone is a liability, as if they all conform to the stereotype of a drunken barnstormer.

Bill Thomas, who appeared in *Howard's Way* and *Minder*, belongs to an agency called Actorium, run exclusively by thespians. He rejects the stock image of the intemperate and dissolute performer, and maintains that working actors, though often plagued

by financial insecurity, lead very mundane lives. "We are not all eccentric, extrovert and sexually promiscuous. It just appears that we've more opportunities on stage."

But the spectre of unemployment waits in the wings, silent and ever-present, ready to scythe actors as they take their exits. Most are forced to take temporary jobs.

The problem is that becoming engaged in full-time employment prevents them from being available for acting work. On the other hand, if they rely on social security between jobs, they may have to face the audience of a government Restart panel. Restart aims to direct unemployed actors towards retraining for alternative jobs.

That can lead to bizarre moments. William Maxwell, whose credits include the RSC's *Nicholas Nickleby* and episodes of *Brookside*, was given a Restart interview while out of work. "I was actually



recognized by my interviewer, he looked up and said, 'Hey, I know you, you're Terry's dad from *Brookside* - can I have your autograph?' Recognized as a 'face', but not as having a valid 'career', it seems.

Peter Plouviez, general secretary of Equity, believes that schemes such as Restart fail to take into account the nature of contractual work. "There are always extended periods of unemployment; that is part of actors' lives."

Misconceptions about actors may stem from their ambivalent status in society. They are revered and loved, and misunderstood. They entertain, or comment upon society, but remain casual labourers, on the fringe of acceptance. Equity claims that greater public funding would ease the situation. But the problems of the young actor struggling to find work, and being clobbered by the Inland Revenue at the same time, will not easily disappear.

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مكتبة الأمل



## NEW YORK FASHION by Liz Smith

## Cast for a lean, clean decade

It's sassy, it's simple New York chic as the leaders of American fashion show off the pared-down look favoured by the glitterati

Brian de Palma, the Hollywood director, mistimed his recent visit to Manhattan to audition real-life socialites for walk-on parts in Warner Brothers' film version of Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities*. If he had been at the fashion shows in New York last week, he could have watched them in action and saved himself the cost of the limousines sent to whisk the cliques from Le Cirque, Mortimer's and other Upper East Side haunts for the ride downtown to Tribeca to read their lines.

The customer "on parade" is a significant part of American fashion. The line-up of social celebrities and fashion professionals in the front rows at every show reflects the reality that American designers alone among their international counterparts continually face, that of the fashion needs of the affluent women who dress to work and play.

Bill Blass, the designer, supplies his socialite fans such as Nan Kempner, Nancy Kissinger and Judy Peabody with sumptuous, four-star "sportswear". None of them care if they all show up at a restaurant dressed in identical drop-dead simplicity, wearing the same luxurious flannel-grey evening sweater with satin trousers, and they will probably all be seen next season in Blass's latest strapless tweed short dresses with a cashmere sweater knotted over the shoulders. Six of them commented each other at last week's Blass show for turning out in identical red and black tartan suits.

Oscar de la Renta, who recently married one of his customers, Annette Reed, wowed his women with long, lean tunics to slip over short skirts and shimmering cuffs or "beaded" silk "lame" and brocade ensembles. His former assistant Carolynne Roehm, who succeeded him as president of the CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America) is married to Henry Kravis, New York's leverage buyout specialist, and stars with him in Manhattan's latest best-seller, *Barbarians at the Gate*, the book which upstages Wolfe's novel by being a real-life saga about the recent dismantling of the Nabisco empire.

Manhattan's fast-moving, sassy style extends to the pared-down clothes that all chic New Yorkers like to wear. In addressing their needs, America's top designers have succeeded in redefining the classics for a style that looks set to become the look of the 1990s. Simplicity is smart. Simplicity looks young and hip. Simplicity, however, does not come cheap.

A simple wide-necked tunic that has a way of sliding seductively off one shoulder has more allure when it comes in silky cashmere or pale suede. A blazer, cunningly simple in cut, must come in the heaviest crepe, matte jersey or all-over sequins to exude the essential aura of understated luxury. Either of the above pieces would come in the £700-plus range. In New York, simplicity sells, whatever the price.

Amanda Verdian, buyer for Harvey Nichols' designer floor, believes that New York designers offer women something different from that provided by their European peers. "American clothes look wonderfully pared-down and relaxed. They are modern," she says. Smart London shops like Browns and A La Mode are equally committed to the laid-back transatlantic style.

With his proud New Jersey mother sitting in the front row, Isaac Mizrahi emerged as leader of New York's exciting new talents. Installed in expansive new studios in SoHo, Mizrahi, CFDA's Designer of the Year, launched his first menswear line alongside the triple-layered short coats in sherry

bert shades, the bow-tied jackets, loose tunics and dipping flinged poncho skirts of his new collection. He says ballerinas inspired his glamorous spaghetti-strap backless dance dresses.

Michael Kors, whose minimalist chic sells well over here, tightens his grip on the European market by adding a swimwear line for the British company Truie, to his cashmere collection for Lyle & Scott, as well as menswear and shoes. Blue-eyed, with a mop of blond curls, Kors is an artistic exponent of the simple look in luxurious beige and navy suede, gabardine, sequins or silk. "I don't think you need a lot of clothes," he says. "The more you own, the more difficult it is. When I design, I strive for that perfect jacket, the perfect pants."

"Women used to shop for their amusement. Feeling blue? Let's buy a new dress. Well, that's all changed," he says.

Donna Karan, currently Seventh Avenue's international star, will arrive in London on May 9 to celebrate her successful new shops in Harvey Nichols. Karan has always applied herself to the basics of "what working women, like herself, need to wear. This season her scoop-necked bodysuits, roomy ribbed tunic sweaters, wrap skirts and collarless double-face alpaca coats in luxurious neutrals such as grey, beige and tortoiseshell brown come muffled up with a detachable glamorous deep cowl or sequined scarf.

The cut of Calvin Klein's narrow jackets is undoubtedly beautiful. The cloth is certainly luxurious from the deep taupe and loden green gabardine and covert, bookie's checks and Glen plaids of his daytime equestrian style to the matte gold sequins and re-embroidered lace of his simple evening dresses. But, by reworking such past successes, he risks boring his fashionably tapered riding pants off us all.

Ralph Lauren's offerings were greeted enthusiastically by his audience, from the opening numbers of rugged north-west blanket coats, patchwork plaid jackets and khaki trousers worn with waders to the simple, willowy, long black dress that bared the shoulders of Lauren's current favourite model, Kim Nye. The tall, rangy 28-year-old with the blunt blonde bob stood to have every outfit in his new collection tried on her first. "Everything we put on her looked fantastic," Lauren said. "She has a loose energy, a look that is wonderfully rich and elegant."

Known for his thoroughbred sporty style, Lauren succeeds in making familiar classics look fresh and new. His success this spring with military tunics has been followed up with khaki battledress and military greatcoats, glistening with brass buttons, slung about with Sam Browne belts and worn with a Monty берет.

Bob Mackie, best known as the creator of Cher's showstopping spunky numbers, may be based on Seventh Avenue these days, but he never forgets his raunchy Hollywood roots. This season he costumed a rip-roaring Western with feathered head-dresses and beaded suede ponchos, taking in Amish country with "patchwork quilt" jersey dresses and Pilgrim hats.

Geoffrey Beene is a visionary who pioneered the bodysuit and tunic dress decades ago. He constantly evolves his craft, engineering intricately-seamed, high-waisted and narrow-sleeved dresses and cropped jackets that define today's contemporary case. His fared trumpet dresses in jersey for day with diagonally-wrapped stitched leather straps and in flowered brocade and lame for evening got the only standing ovation of the week.

clothes and photographs donated by international designers, fashion illustrators and photographers.

The gala, under the honorary chairmanship of the fashion artist Ette, will launch the Dima Vreeland Fund for exhibitions at the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum, where DV, as she was known, was fashion director from 1972, following her decade as editor of *Vogue*.

The following day the contents of her stylishly cluttered Park Avenue apartment, decorated in deep shades of red, go under the hammer. Although her celebrated collection of jewels has already been sold, netting \$179,800 at Sotheby's in October 1987, fashion enthusiasts will find rich pickings among the Scottish silver snuff horns displayed on a Victorian butler's tray, the collection of fashion drawings, and the monogrammed set of Yvonne



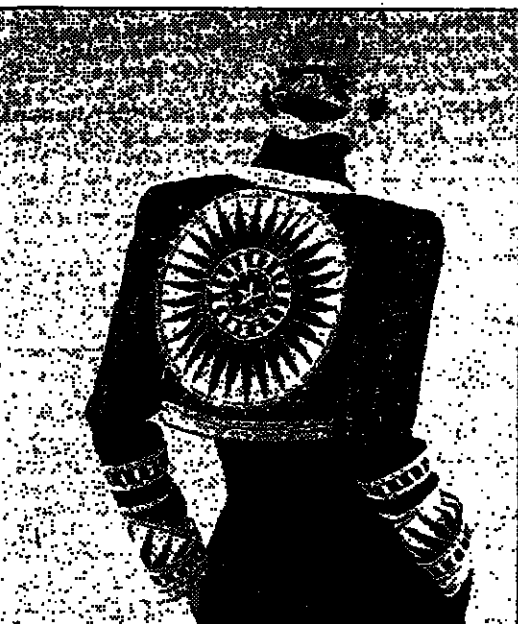
RALPH LAUREN

Khaki battledress with burgundy velvet epaulettes and cream trousers



DONNA KARAN

Grey alpaca detachable cowl, tie-front jacket and jersey unitard



BOB MACKIE

Sunburst medallion embroidered on black jacket



CALVIN KLEIN

Bookie's check jacket and wrap skirt



MICHAEL KORS

Charcoal camel-hair coat over blazer



BILL BLASS

Strapless trompe l'oeil dress in tweed



ISAAC MIZRAHI

Grey cashmere cable sweater with brocade skirt



GEOFFREY BEENE

High-waisted slip dress in spotted net and lace

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**Adopt a Granny Help the Aged**

## DV rules

THE memorial service for Diana Vreeland held last November in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's medieval-sculpture hall, with a white-robed choir singing Faure's *Sanctus*, turns out to have been merely the warm-up to the fashion world's real tribute to its legendary *grande dame*.

On April 18, they all gather again at Sotheby's, New York, for cocktails and "The Art of Fashion", an auction of jewellery,

## In memoriam

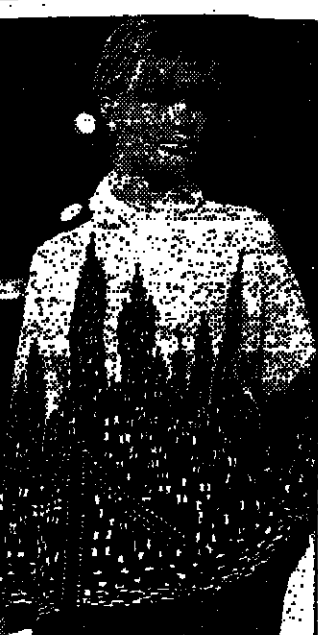
A SOMBRE phenomenon of New York fashion that was increasingly evident during the week of shows was the number of "ghost" collections created in the name of designers who have recently died — seven in the last few years — many of them victims of Aids, leaving only a name for another designer to carry on.

Memorial retrospective shows were staged last week for Willi Smith, an international star who died of Aids in 1987, aged 39, and Mississippi-born Patrick Kelly, another black designer, the first American to become a member of Paris fashion's select club, the Chambre Syndicale. Kelly died of bone marrow disease on New Year's Day, aged 40.

The Halston collection shown in his Olympic Tower studio last week was in the spirit alone of the first superstar designer, who died of Aids at 57 in San Francisco a

fortnight ago. Reworking some unfinished sketches, Virginia Estrada stepped in to succeed her brother, Angel Estrada, who died of Aids last September, aged 31. Martin Price ghosted a much-praised collection shown last week in the name of his friend, Giorgio di Sant'Angelo, who died of lung cancer last August, aged 55. Michael McCollum, formerly a menswear designer, has taken over the Isaia line for his "old friend from Cincinnati", Isaia Rankin, who died of Aids last July.

It was the death of the designer Perry Ellis at the peak of his international success in 1986 that brought the full impact of Aids home to the fashion industry. In fact Marc Jacobs, the young designer who is Ellis's latest design successor, hit his stride last week with his third collection for Ellis's label, continuing the house tradition for beautiful knitwear, notably the sweater shown here, lit up like the Manhattan skyline.



Manhattan lit up: knitwear by Marc Jacobs for Perry Ellis

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# A life on the open road

Peter Waymark

● A former soldier and game warden, Stephen Pern is a natural wanderer whose life consists of a sustained rambling to the notion of living in a house and eating three meals a day. He likes to be on the move and as far away as possible from crowds and cities. In the course of a 1,600 mile walk along the mountains of Japan for a new documentary series *Compass* (ITV, 10.35pm), he remarks: "I travel because I am afraid of people." He prefers to walk alone and admits that he



Stephen Pern: plays the koto, a Japanese harp (ITV, 10.35pm)

even feels self-conscious in the presence of the film crew. Pern's deliberate unpreparedness for the trek, preferring to tackle the country as a total stranger, gives the programme an appealingly unheeded flavour and, as is often the case with media journeymen, this tells as much about the traveller as his terrain. ● "The Army is happy to expect that you put your career first and family second," says David, a signals officer, who has seen his son for just six days in the course of a year. Hardly a recruiting film, *Army Lives* (BBC2, 7.50pm) this week explores the theme of separation, as the husbands go on tour in Northern Ireland leaving wives and children in West Germany. Long absences are hardly the recipe for happy family life and some marriages break up. That many more survive is a considerable tribute to the resilience of both partners, although it is suggested that the greatest sufferers are the children.

● The Apple computer company was one of the success stories of the early 1980s, making Roger Foster, its founder, into a millionaire. Then came a devastating crash. Foster still drives his Rolls, but the company is fighting for survival against the giant multinationals. Enter *Trailblazer* (BBC2, 9.50pm) and Sir John Harvey-Jones, oozing charm and colourful phrases ("that loss must have shaken the hell out of you") and moving ruthlessly to the unpleasant truth that Foster and his team need to think the unthinkable. It is another very watchable contribution to an excellent series.

● Like new breakfast cereals, new game shows tend to be variations of old ones. Despite its wacky set and choice of alternative comedienne Helen Atkinson-Wood as host, *Style Trial* (BBC2, 7.00pm) has more to do with *What's My Line* and *Through the Keyhole* as "celebrity" panelists are invited to identify the occupations and lifestyles of ordinary people from one-minute films.

6.00 *Crest*: Mother Teresa with a prayer in thanksgiving for music and song. 6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer. Includes regular news headlines, business reports, sports summaries, regional news, weather and travel information. Paul Cullen reviews the morning's newspapers. 6.55 Regional news and weather. 7.00 *News and weather* followed by *Easter Children's BBC*, introduced by Simon Patten and Andi Peters, starting with *Heathcliff* with Celia and Co. Cartoon adventures of a cat and an alley cat (r) 7.25 *Why Don't You...?* Adventure drama series. 8.00 *Redemption* Peter.

10.00 *News and weather* followed by *Turnabout* (r) 10.30 *Playdays* presented by Dave Benson Phillips and Elizabeth Watts (r) 10.55 *Mother Teresa with a Prayer* in thanksgiving for music and song. 11.00 *News and weather* followed by *Open Air*. Gloria Hunniford and Jayne Irving look at television's reporting of disasters such as Hillsborough and Enniskillen. Survivors and their relatives take part in a discussion about whether blanket coverage of the carnage puts pressure on the families of the dead and injured.

12.00 *News and weather* followed by *Daytime Live*. Magazine series presented by Andy Gray and Judi Smeaton. 12.55 Regional news and weather. 1.00 *News with Philip Hayton*. Weather. 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Crest) 1.50 *Turnabout*. Another round of the word quiz hosted by Rob Cuning. 2.15 *Film: Desperate Men* 1947, starring Eric Portman, Grete Garbo and Dennis Price. Run-of-the-mill "perfect murder" story with Portman in fine form as the jealous husband who accuses his wife's lover in what he thinks is undetectable fashion. Directed by Arthur Crabtree.


3.30 *ChuckleVision*. The Chuckle brothers - Paul and Barry - try their hand at postal deliveries (r) 4.00 *Outlaw*. Adventures of a duck-billed platypus (r) 4.30 *Simon and the Witch*. Episodes three of Valerie George's 13-part serial starring Elizabeth Spriggs and Hugh Pollard (r) 4.55 *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*. 5.00 *News and weather*. 5.10 *The Lowdown*. Young victims of crime talk about how they are being helped by the Victims Support Scheme (Crest). 5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Crest) 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather. 6.30 *Regional News Magazine*. 7.00 *Style Trial* (see Choice).

7.30 *ChuckleVision*. Another episode from the series about the cockney denizens of Albert Square, some of whom gang up tonight to save the threatened market. (Crest) 8.00 *The Menorah*. Peter. 8.30 *News and weather*. 8.50 *ChuckleVision*. 9.00 *ChuckleVision*. 9.30 *ChuckleVision*. 9.50 *ChuckleVision*. 10.00 *ChuckleVision*. 10.30 *ChuckleVision*. 10.55 *ChuckleVision*. 11.00 *ChuckleVision*. 11.30 *ChuckleVision*. 11.55 *ChuckleVision*. 12.00 *ChuckleVision*. 12.30 *ChuckleVision*. 12.55 *ChuckleVision*. 1.00 *ChuckleVision*. 1.30 *ChuckleVision*. 1.55 *ChuckleVision*. 2.00 *ChuckleVision*. 2.30 *ChuckleVision*. 2.55 *ChuckleVision*. 3.00 *ChuckleVision*. 3.30 *ChuckleVision*. 3.55 *ChuckleVision*. 4.00 *ChuckleVision*. 4.30 *ChuckleVision*. 4.55 *ChuckleVision*. 5.00 *ChuckleVision*. 5.30 *ChuckleVision*. 5.55 *ChuckleVision*. 6.00 *ChuckleVision*. 6.30 *ChuckleVision*. 6.55 *ChuckleVision*. 7.00 *ChuckleVision*. 7.30 *ChuckleVision*. 7.55 *ChuckleVision*. 8.00 *ChuckleVision*. 8.30 *ChuckleVision*. 8.55 *ChuckleVision*. 9.00 *ChuckleVision*. 9.30 *ChuckleVision*. 9.55 *ChuckleVision*. 10.00 *ChuckleVision*. 10.30 *ChuckleVision*. 10.55 *ChuckleVision*. 11.00 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# Midsummer directors end support for offer

By Stephen Leather

THE directors of Midsummer Leisure, the pubs, snooker and discotheque group, have withdrawn their recommendation of the takeover bid from European Leisure.

When European Leisure, which is headed by Mr Michael Ward and owns the Hippodrome nightspot in London, announced its takeover bid last week, its shares rose worth about £90 million.

But Mecca's dismal results last week have hit sentiment, and the share prices have fallen, and European Leisure's offer was worth £70 million yesterday.

As a result, Midsummer's directors feel unable to recommend the deal to their shareholders, though they still hold the view that the take-

over will enable Midsummer to develop at a faster rate than it could on its own.

European Leisure is offering 144 new shares and 50 preference shares, or £50 cash, for every 100 Midsummer shares. Before details of the deal were released, Midsummer shares were trading at 131p. They were changing hands at 251p a year ago.

Assuming the deal goes ahead, Mr Paul Reece, the deputy chairman of Midsummer, and Mr Ian Rock, a director, will join the enlarged group's board, while Mr Adam Page, the chairman, intends to resign.

Mr Page has written to shareholders, saying that when his board first recom-

mended the offer, European Leisure's shares were trading at 80p. They closed 4p higher at 84p yesterday.

He said: "The directors of Midsummer Leisure believe that these values do not reflect the prospects of the enlarged group. Nevertheless, the substantial fall in the stock market value of European Leisure since the announcement of the offer must be a major concern in assessing the overall benefits of the offer."

As a result, Midsummer's directors "are now unable to give a firm recommendation to shareholders."

Mr Ward, chairman of European Leisure, said the current price does not reflect the company's prospects or

the commercial benefits of combining the groups.

Acceptances are now running at about 10.4 million Midsummer shares, representing almost 20 per cent of the equity.

The deal will make the combined group the third largest leisure group in Britain, behind Mecca and First Leisure. European Leisure plans to sell off all of Midsummer's 40 pubs as part of a strategy of focusing on discos and theme bars. Mr Ward hopes to raise about £45 million from the sales and to more than halve the combined group's borrowings.

Meanwhile, European Leisure has paid £6.6 million for two West End nightspots.

## Scottish TV shows 21% rise

Scottish Television is tightening costs in the face of an industry-wide slowdown in TV advertising.

The group, which has cut staff from 810 to 666, increased pre-tax profit last year by 21 per cent to £11.1 million after absorbing the £3.15 million redundancy costs. Pauline Hyde, the outplacement agency acquired in 1988, contributed £804,000 to profits.

Advertising revenue grew by 7.15 per cent to £87.3 million, which the group says is marginally ahead of the sector growth. Programme sales rose by 52 per cent to £12.9 million and total turnover from £92.2 million to £104 million. There was an extraordinary profit of £4 million from the sale of the stake in Independent Television Publications. Earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 61p and the final dividend is up from 15.25p to 20p. The shares fell 15p to 479p.

## Compass bid cleared

The Office of Fair Trading cleared Compass Group's £97 million all-paper bid for Sketchley, the dry cleaning and vending company. Compass said it had not yet decided to launch a new bid for Sketchley after the board and major shareholders countered its offer by recommending the appointment of a new management team on Friday.

The market speculated that a new bid may arrive from Compass or, perhaps, Godfrey Davis, which withdrew a £126 million offer in February. This pushed Sketchley's share price 9p higher to close at 272p.

## UFI ahead 29%

United Friendly Insurance, the USM insurance group, increased pre-tax profits by 29 per cent to £20.7 million in 1989. The final dividend of 28.75p, up from 21.7p, makes 41p.

## Fleet's in

TVS Entertainment, the ITV franchise holder for the South of England area, has appointed Mr Kenneth Fleet, a former executive editor of *The Times* and *Business News*, as a non-executive director.

## Clapham swaps omnibus

STEPHEN Clapham, for the past couple of years transport and shipping analyst at Hoare Govett, is breaking out into fresh fields. He has been poached by Nomura to look at utilities and in particular the power privatization. "I'm told I've got to trade in my Lomax for a Datsun Bluebird," he joked. "I think he was joking. Stephen was a management consultant before joining Hoare Govett nearly five years ago. 'The initial emphasis will be to get up to speed on the utilities situation, principally electricity,'" he said. "That's the excitement and the challenge - it's a tremendously complex industry; it's all changing and it's all new. It's a green field site." He concedes that the Government is going to have its problems selling power, not least because of the City's lack of understanding of the industry. "The structure's entirely different to anything else around the world - the market has got a big education task ahead of it," he says.

## Marked down

WHATEVER the decision eventually made about the West-East mark rate, the West Germans are already becoming excited about their new bank notes which are due to go into circulation in October. To publicize the notes, the Bundesbank has been mounting a special campaign and has been answering thousands of questions. It seems to be the

## Small dressed for City

By Martin Waller

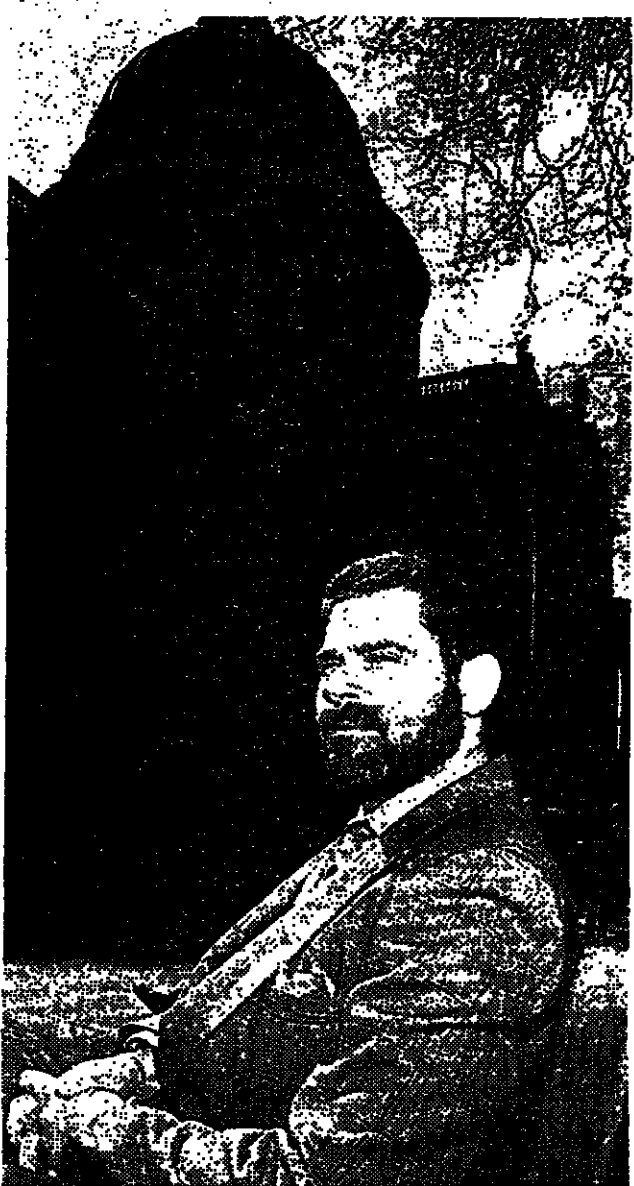
A MAKER of uniforms for big American corporations, like Kentucky Fried Chicken and Federal Express, is set to come to the London stock market by means of a reverse takeover of Amercoeur Energy, a quoted shell company.

Amercoeur, initially a mining company, has been prepared for the acquisition by Mr Mark Vaughan-Lee, the company doctor, and MIM, led by Lord Stevens. The deal, with Horace Small Apparel Company of Tennessee, expected to be announced this week, is the seventh of its kind sponsored by MIM.

The reverse takeover involves the purchase of Small for \$58.25 million, to be funded by a rights issue. Of that, \$14.75 million will go to purchasing the company itself and \$13.5 million will be paid to Mr Doug Small under a non-competition agreement which will allow tax savings under US law over the next five years.

Mr Small is president and chief executive of the company and will continue with Amercoeur to be renamed United Uniform Services. Another \$30 million will repay almost all Small's bank debt and allow expansion into what is still a fragmented market in the US. Among Small's customers are the National Parks Service and the US Customs.

The company has no intention to expand in Britain. Small said an over-the-counter quote in New York would not have provided a broad enough equity base.



Uniform approach: Doug Small outside St Paul's

## Airport hits Mowlem profit

By Matthew Bond

JOHN Mowlem, the contractor, is almost certain to close its London City Airport in the Docklands if a public inquiry this summer decides that jets should not be allowed to use the airport.

Mr Roger Sainsbury, a director, said it is virtually impossible to see the airport having a profitable future without the introduction of the A64 jet.

The statement came with preliminary pre-tax profits of £22 million for the year to

December, against £59.5 million last time.

Most of the shortfall is due to the £33 million write-down against the airport. Taken in the form of a £33 million exceptional item, the write-offs include a £20 million reduction in the book value of the airport and £2 million of related development costs. The balance is made up of £7 million of future losses and £4 million to be spent on the public inquiry.

A dividend of 21.0p (19.5p)

is recommended. Operating profits at Mowlem's house-building division fell from £17.2 million to just £7.4 million in the period. Profits from the group's commercial development arm, half-owned by Royal Trust, fell from £6.3 million to £4.9 million.

However, construction raised its operating profits by 79 per cent to £10.4 million, while profits from scaffolding rose by 17 per cent to £37.9 million. Gearing stands at about 50 per cent.

## Bad timing

THE stuff of fund managers' nightmares: Porter Homes Executive Pension Scheme & Associates notified a startled world yesterday it had bought another 1.6 per cent of Federated Housing, bringing its holding to 6.6 per cent. The purchase was done last Tuesday, presumably a few hours before Federated shares were suspended at 5p and the company reported talks with bankers about a possible restructuring. Porter Homes can hardly say it was not warned, as Federated issued one in January. A call to Federated's headquarters produced little response, save reassurance from the chairman's office that Porter Homes, based in Bristol and run by one Tony Porter, had no other connection with the housebuilder. "He knew that they were dropping - he had seen the market before he bought them," said Federated.

● KASPAR, the Savoy cat, had his bib and tucker on again last night for the Berkeley Dress Show at the Savoy ballroom, looking well-preserved for a feline who started his career in 1927. Kaspar is one of the Savoy's most endearing traditions and comes out to make up the numbers whenever 13 are seated at a table, as last night when 20 debutantes modelled Bella Pollen's collection. The story is that in 1925 a guest at the Savoy booked a room for 13, disregarding the tradition of the first to leave the table being first to die. He was shot two weeks later.

Martin Waller

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Put on hold by Airbus

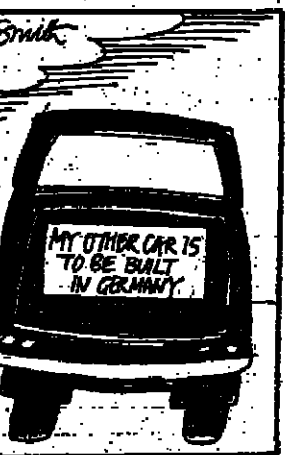
LORD King please note: Air New Zealand, just off the privatization block and with Ron Brierley as a big shareholder, could find itself in the ludicrous position of being unable to operate from its own capital city, under noise control laws passed after pressure from environmentalists by Wellington City Council. But Ansett, its main rival flying out of the capital, will

not be affected. The council has put a curfew on noisy jets using the airport from 10 pm to 7 am, while going for a complete ban by 1995. But the measures affect only Air New Zealand's Boeing 737s - it has 11 and another six ordered over the next 18 months - and not the European Airbus operated by Ansett, which fall well below the noise level set by the council.

Appl, the Grimm Brothers of fairy tale fame are featured on it. As one might expect with new notes, everyone has their own ideas of what should be on them. One of the most popular, it seems - and in the spirit of the new openness between East and West - is a picture of the Brandenburg Gate.

### Ratty goes East

THE insatiable appetite in Japan for things English results in 300,000 children's combined books and cassettes reaching the country, according to their publisher, Pickwick Group. Now Pickwick is in talks with a Japanese publisher to produce its own range for the 25 million Japanese children learning English. The company is working on such childhood favourites as *The Wind in the Willows*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan* and *Treasure Island*.



The Guinness trial

## Secretary 'ordered to shred letters'

A SECRETARY to Mr Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chief executive, told yesterday how she was ordered to shred two letters after the Government launched an investigation into the takeover of Distillers.

She said the documents were destroyed despite a memo being circulated asking that all papers be preserved.

However, Miss Melanie Burford, giving evidence at Southwark Crown Court, agreed that one letter was merely a thank-you note from Mr Meshulam Ricklis, for flowers provided by Mr Saunders when the two men went to the London Palladium to hear Mr Ricklis's wife, Miss Pia Zadora, sing.

Mr Saunders denies destroying company documents between December 1, 1986, and January 30, 1987.

Miss Burford said that either Mr Saunders or his personal assistant, Mrs Margaret McGrath, told her to destroy the letter.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, for Mr Saunders, said: "Let someone think this letter contained some crucial business matter, it was nothing more sinister than a thank-you letter for flowers." Miss Burford replied: "Yes."

The second letter was to a Guinness director, Dr Arthur Furer, concerning Bank Leu and information that Mr Saunders claimed had not been provided by the former Guinness finance chief, Mr Olivier Roux.

Miss Burford said that changes in Mr Saunders's diary, involved a lunch appointment with Gerald Ronson on April 3, 1986, and a lunch on June 27. She had not erased the entries.

Miss Burford said that on the day Mr Saunders left Guinness, January 9, 1987, he took office address books. Later, they were returned.

She said: "There were some pages which had been cut in half, with entries missing and some pages had been removed."

Mr Saunders, aged 54; Gerald Ronson, aged 50, the head of Heron Corporation; Anthony Parnes, aged 44, a stockbroker; and Sir Jack Lyons, a financier, variously deny 24 charges, including theft and false accounting.

They are alleged to have mounted an illegal share support operation to ensure victory for the £2.7 billion Guinness bid for Distillers. The trial continues today.

## COMMENT

### Fixing the smile on the face of the tiger

Providing takeover bids can be financed on promises, UAL, parent of United Airlines, has a deal with the employees who are planning the \$4.38 billion buyout announced last Friday. If not, then many more months of uncertainty lie ahead for the company and its partner, British Airways.

The banks who refused to back the last buyout attempt in October 1989, because they did not like the fees and they feared for the financial structure, are being marshalled to back the latest attempt. Some way or another, \$4 billion has to be found, which will drive borrowings of UAL to more than \$5 billion - at which level it will be met. The unions are promising that profits can be improved by their own members' modest demands for pay rises and by productivity improvements. Any bank which advances funds on that basis deserves to go the way of the savings and loan industry.

Plenty of time has been allowed by the UAL board to the employees' group to come up with the money and then complete the deal. At the very least, the parties are looking to an end-year completion. Meanwhile, UAL is likely to be struggling. Instead of looking after the passengers, the employees will be looking after their own interests.

None of this bodes especially well for BA, which is comfortable with its contracts with UAL no matter who owns it, but cannot be too pleased with the prospect of another year's uncertainty of ownership.

In operating terms, UAL and BA are perfect partners, but BA might have been left wondering yesterday whether it should instead have tied its colours to the American Airlines tail rather than UAL's. Like BA's Lord King, Robert Crandall, the chairman and president of AA, is a straightforward, unreconstructed free marketeer. He chose the British-American Chamber of Commerce's 20th annual London luncheon to lash out at British Government policy which on the one hand advocates deregulation in Europe but holds on to

restrictive air routes with the United States. He condemned the absence of slots for his airline at Heathrow and Gatwick, the restrictions of air traffic control, and his inability to use his own staff for ground handling in Britain.

He wondered aloud whether this was to protect BA's "near monopoly" at Heathrow.

The problem is that Bob Crandall speaks from a position of unequalled strength. American is the Western world's largest airline, with arguably the world's most modern fleet and the world's most comprehensive and sophisticated computer reservations service (which made more than the airline last year). It is streets ahead in its domestic airline market, and needs to make inroads into Europe to expand.

Perhaps "open skies" is the answer - he thinks, and who would disagree, that both American and British Airways would prosper. But does BA have unrestricted access to the massive Dallas Fort Worth, American's headquarters and main hub? When it comes to airlines, the smile, as always, is on the face of the tiger.

## Suspended animation

It must be nice to be in the know. Only last Tuesday shares in Federated Housing dropped by 80 per cent to just 5p, at which price the company could be bought in its entirety for not much more than one of its upmarket homes. Only then were the shares suspended, as Federated admitted talks with its bankers.

Yesterday, in an instant action replay, Rush & Tompkins, another of the walking wounded of the property and housebuilding world, saw its shares collapse by almost 90 per cent at one stage before suspension at less than half their overnight value. The Stock Exchange, in that time-honoured phrase, is thought to be investigating both share price movements. Suspension is supposed to prevent, rather than follow, a disorderly market. In today's jittery markets the Stock Exchange would do well to move a little faster.

## No clear route for Delors

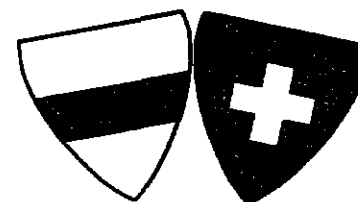
As the EC central bank governors meet in Basle today they may well reflect that it is difficult to know how to plan the route when you do not know where you are going. They are meeting to work out Stage 2 of the Delors plan, but much of what is expected in Stage 3 is still obscure. Among issues not yet decided are whether the aim should be a single currency or irrevocably fixed rates; whether price stability should be the only objective of monetary policy or one of several; whether monetary policy should be centralized in the hands of the proposed EC central bank or decentralized among national

authorities; who should decide exchange rate policy and who implement it; what the structure of the central bank should be.

The Commission and the French and Italians are eager to push ahead to decisions as quickly as possible, but from the UK's point of view the whole debate has a surreal quality. Having rejected the premise - that monetary union is a desirable and achievable end - it is nevertheless engaging fully in the argument about how to achieve something in which it has said it does not believe.

David Brewerton

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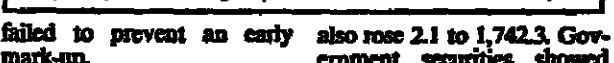
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# Goldman Sachs snaps up 8.3m Argos shares

Meanwhile, share prices generally opened the three-week Easter account on a firm note, helped by news of an 1,100-point overnight rally in Tokyo and the absence of hostilities at the G7 meeting during the weekend in Paris.

A heavy list of blue-chip companies going ex-dividend – equivalent to a loss of almost 5 points on the index –



**The FT index of 30 shares and Mergers Commission.**

[illegible]

**Priest Marians**, the debt-laden property group, shrugged off recent weakness, stemming from its qualified accounts, to end 23p better at 233p. The group is still in bid talks with Grovewood Securities

**Michael Clark**

Like his predecessor, the Chancellor may be falling into the trap of targeting too many variables with one weapon. GRAEME ANDERSON, Group Economist, Britannia Life, 190/198 West George Street, Glasgow.

## Burgers on the Menu (The

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**BARRY J GIBBONS,**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Burger King Corporation,  
1777 Old Cutler Road,  
Miami, Florida

very old subject for discussion and that it has been argued round and round for years and years.

**Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.**

### By Our City Staff

The interim dividend is up 26 per cent to 1.2p from a rise in earnings per share from

over increased by 12.6 per cent to £83.9 million. Investment and net interest income increased from £1.7 million to £2.3 million.

Wedd Securities (Japan), said: "The yen has not seen its lowest levels yet. After a brief respite, it could start to

	67%	67%	Enron	53%	53%	Oxyx Energy	47%	47%
Abbott Lab	67%	67%	Enron	53%	53%	Oxyx Energy	47%	47%
Aetna Life	60%	50	Entergy	20%	20%	Pac Ent	45%	45
Amersham	17	16%	Ethyl	24%	24%	Pac Gas Elec	21%	22
Air Prods	50%	50%	Exxon	46%	46%	Pac Telecst	45%	45%
Alberssons	58%	58%	Fed NMA	33%	32	Paccor	40%	40%
Alcan Al	21%	21%	FedEx Excess	55	55%	PacificCorp	22%	22%

(25) Holders of registered shares for which certificates have been issued in another form and holders of booked shares wishing to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy appointed in writing must notify the Company of their intention by letter, stating the numbers of the share certificates or of the bookings for the shares, which must reach Unilever N.V., Affiliated Efficien on Coupons, Burgemeesters' Jacobplein 1, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, by Wednesday, 25th April, 1990.

## RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1989

- |                                     | 1989<br>£'000 | 1988<br>£'000 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Premiums — Life                     | 140,130       | 110,904       |
| — General                           | 58,126        | 54,461        |
| Profit before tax                   | 20,681        | 15,952        |
| Profit attributable to shareholders | 16,436        | 12,626        |
| Dividend per share                  | 41.00p        | 31.25p        |
| Earnings per share                  | 103.45p       | 79.60p        |

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**THE TIMES**

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Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ex) denotes Alpha Stocks.  
(VOLUME: PAGE 24).

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page daily. Add them up to give your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Price	Change	Dividend
1	Stax & New (ex)	Breweries	10.00	0.00	0.00
2	AAH	Industries A-D	10.00	0.00	0.00
3	Unilever (ex)	Oil/Gas	10.00	0.00	0.00
4	City Elect	Electricity	10.00	0.00	0.00
5	Stetson	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
6	Adco	Building Roads	10.00	0.00	0.00
7	Redfield (ex)	Building Roads	10.00	0.00	0.00
8	Wates	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
9	Independent	Newspapers, Pub	10.00	0.00	0.00
10	Compass	Leisure	10.00	0.00	0.00
11	Hayes & Harrow	Breweries	10.00	0.00	0.00
12	James (ex)	Transport	10.00	0.00	0.00
13	James (ex)	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
14	Alfred Irish	Bank, Discount	10.00	0.00	0.00
15	Marling	Industries L-R	10.00	0.00	0.00
16	Chadburn Group	Leisure	10.00	0.00	0.00
17	Truist	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
18	Truist (ex)	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
19	Frank (ex)	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
20	Stanbury (ex)	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
21	Blackwood House	Industries A-D	10.00	0.00	0.00
22	Net Asia	Bank, Discount	10.00	0.00	0.00
23	Whitman	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
24	Leche (ex)	Industries L-R	10.00	0.00	0.00
25	Truist	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
26	S & U Stores	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
27	Alton (ex)	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
28	Ocean Group	Transport	10.00	0.00	0.00
29	Royal Telecom (ex)	Electricity	10.00	0.00	0.00
30	Truist	Transport	10.00	0.00	0.00
31	Truist	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
32	Johnson (ex)	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
33	Truist	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
34	BOC Group (ex)	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
35	Empire Stores	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
36	Truist	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
37	Miller (ex)	Building Roads	10.00	0.00	0.00
38	Redfield (ex)	Building Roads	10.00	0.00	0.00
39	Blue Circle (ex)	Building Roads	10.00	0.00	0.00
40	Gr Portland	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
41	Syston	Industries E-K	10.00	0.00	0.00
42	Broken Hill	Industries A-D	10.00	0.00	0.00
43	MPC (ex)	Property	10.00	0.00	0.00
44	Clutton	Leisure	10.00	0.00	0.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Yesterday's £2000 portfolio prize was won by Miss Winifred Lodge of Morton Street, London SW1.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

UNDATED

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

INDEX LINKED

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

ELECTRICALS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

BREWERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

FINANCE, LAND

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

FOODS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

L-R

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

DRAPERY, STORES

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

HOTELS, CATERERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

S-Z

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

OIL, GAS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

WATER

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

OVERSEAS TRADERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

PROPERTY

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

SHOES, LEATHER

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

TEXTILES

No.	Company	Price	Change
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TOBACCOS

No.	Company	Price	Change
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TRANSPORT

No.	Company	Price	Change
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INSURANCE

No.	Company	Price	Change
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LEISURE

No.	Company	Price	Change
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Mining

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

Motors, Aircraft

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

Oil, Gas

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

Water

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1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

OVERSEAS TRADERS

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Water

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

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Oil, Gas

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

Water

No.	Company	Price	Change
1	Stax & New (ex)	10.00	0.00

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OVERSEAS TRADERS



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# The losers in the single market

## Toll on tourism

**UK airport and ferry authorities are lobbying hard to stop the abolition of duty-free shopping between European countries in 1992, saying it will result in huge fare increases to compensate for lost income. Anthony Cox reports**

Travel will become much more expensive if duty-free shopping is abolished, according to the Duty-Free Confederation (DFC), which represents duty-free dealers in the UK. It says an end to duty-free "perks" will increase ferry fares by up to 23 per cent and the cost of air tickets by at least 10 per cent.

John Douthwaite, secretary-general of the DFC, says the British Airport Authority's operational income does not cover the costs of running its airports. "It is the commercial income that makes them viable, with duty-free as the real money-spinner," he says.

An important source of income is under threat. The duty-free consumer is getting a substantial bargain, and although the provider also has a substantial profit margin, that is being ploughed back to give travellers a cheaper ticket at the end of the day.

Duty-free is now a fundamental part of the pricing structure of international travel, Mr Douthwaite says. "We just do not see any sense in removing something which has no negatives. There's no downside with duty-free. Nobody is under any obligation to buy it; there are no losers."

The threat to duty-free surfaced in 1987 with plans to permit the free movement of people and goods. In a true single market, with equal taxation among member-states, no justification could be seen for the continuation of duty-free outlets. Fiscal harmony would permit travellers to carry unlimited quantities of tax-paid goods.

"It appears that in the

interests of a perfect fiscal doctrine, duty-free is illogical and has to go. The consequences of this loss — and the only justification appears to be doctrine — are so great that we have to highlight them," he says.

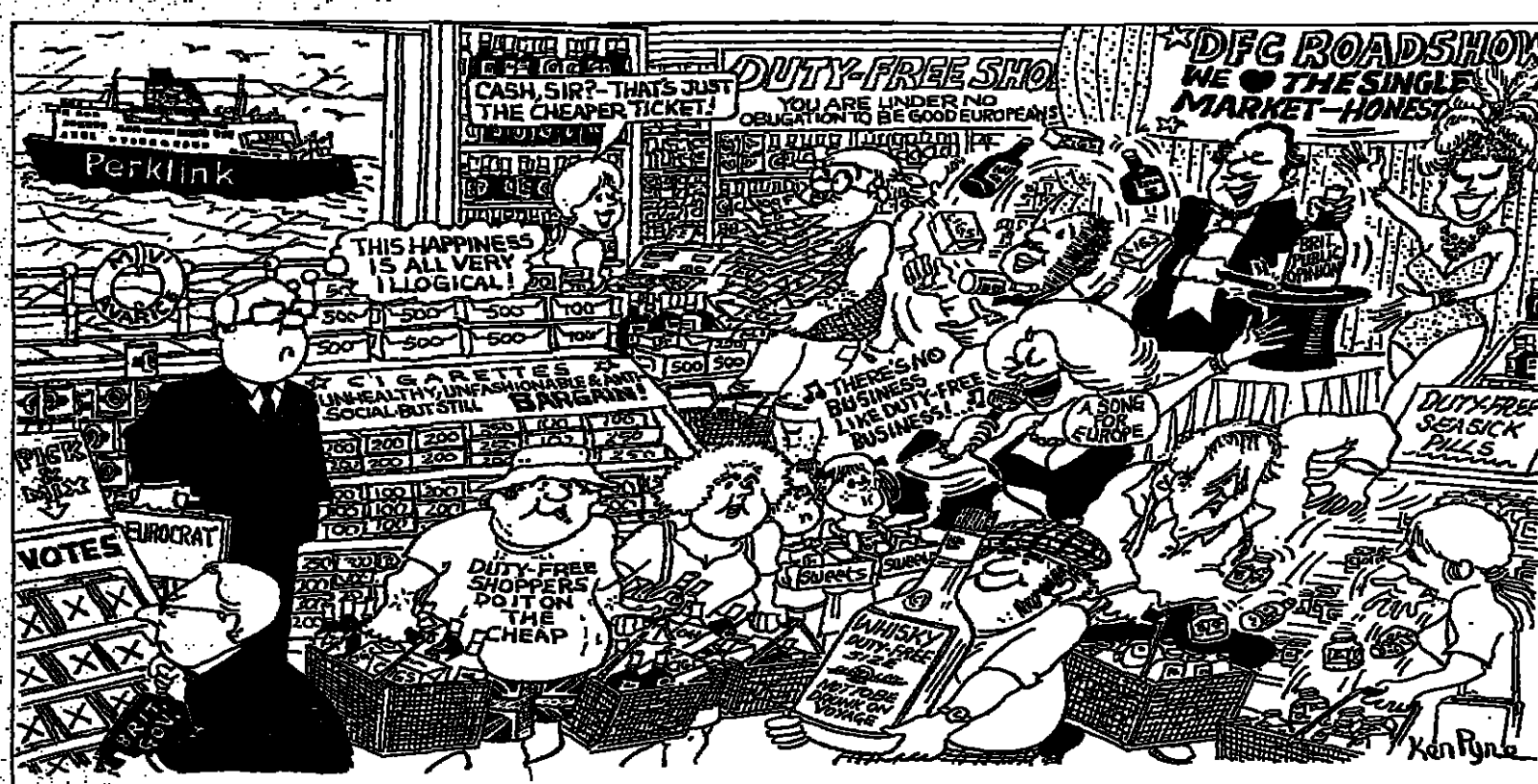
The Association of Suppliers to Airlines, Airports and Shipping was the first industry group to call for united opposition to the abolition of duty-free trading. The result was the DFC, which now embraces all sectors of the industry.

Soon after the DFC was established, the International Duty-Free Confederation (IDFC), of which the DFC is a member, was formed in Brussels. The IDFC is also supported by Scandinavian firms, particularly ferry companies.

"The European Commission has become considerably more pragmatic on the issue," Mr Douthwaite says. "There is now a firm belief that duty-free is sufficiently important to be retained. Realistically, the prospect of a fully harmonized Europe by 1992, or whenever, is much further away than anyone had originally envisaged."

The British Government has not made its position clear on duty-free. The DFC draws some comfort from Mrs Thatcher's recent statement that she recognized the importance of the duty-free trade, to the Scotch whisky industry and that the Government was ready to look at the problem.

Mr Douthwaite says the



biggest problem for the retention of duty-free shopping in a single European market will be the removal of customs barriers. "If you let people have an allowance of, say, liquor, then it has got to be checked. A developing view is that it would not be impossible for the industry to devise

its own means of control at the point of sale. This is something that is being examined in great detail by the European duty-free industry.

"Our main task is to fight against the premature withdrawal of duty-free, but the DFC is looking for imaginative solutions to perpetuate

duty-free." The DFC supports the creation of a single European market. "We are excited at the prospect, but not in this area."

Mr Douthwaite says the UK has most to lose from an end to duty-free trading. Duty-paid shopping would not provide the same level of support

for the travel industry. "I cannot see the holiday-maker using a shopping mall at a regional airport. They are interested in the duty-free 'perk' — and that 'perk' has a big impact on the cost of their ticket. There would still be a certain amount of shopping, but I do not think it would

have anything like the attraction that duty-free has."

Mr Douthwaite says duty-free still offers good value.

"Duty-free shopping savings can range from 15 to 40 per cent, depending on whether the goods are just VAT-free or VAT and excise duty-free. The trouble is that people tend to compare duty-free profit margins with high street retailing."

Mr Douthwaite says duty-free trading — "a good old British institution" — should be defended with a wide-ranging campaign. "We've now got to work out a strategy to beef up general public awareness of the issues. The people who buy duty-free are voters after all."

A European Commission official in London replied to Mr Douthwaite's claims, saying: "In a single European market, duty-free shopping is as illogical as allowing us to buy duty-free goods because we have travelled from London to Edinburgh. And if the airports and other travel groups have built up their operations, as they claim they have, on the basis of duty-free that is their problem."

**'It appears that in the interests of a perfect fiscal doctrine, duty-free is illogical and has to go. The consequences of this loss are great indeed'**

John Douthwaite  
Duty-Free Confederation



The fighting force: from left, John Douthwaite, secretary-general of the DFC; Alan Munn, director of Gatwick Airport; Richard Owen, DFC; and Ken Ford, director of Monarch Airways

UK groups that will be affected by the changes have rallied behind the DFC

## Opposition is widespread

MORE than 30 million British travellers enjoy the duty-free "perk" every year. According to the Duty-Free Confederation (DFC), it is the British travel industry and British holiday-makers who will be hit hardest if duty-free shopping is abolished within the European Community.

British manufacturers will also suffer because they dominate sales in European duty-free shops, which therefore

become shop windows for British goods.

Independent reports by The Netherlands Economic Institute and Coopers & Lybrand have underlined the economic significance of the duty-free trade. Their findings show why all groupings involved in duty-free have rallied to the banner of the confederation to defend the status quo.

Total duty-free sales by

ferry companies from Community countries are about £345 million a year, of which £323 million is generated on routes within the Community. The reduction in profits likely from the loss of these sales is estimated at £143 million, recovery of which would lead to a fare increase of between 12 and 23 per cent.

Ferry-line profits from duty-free sales play a big part in maintaining profitability. In

many cases their contribution is critical in keeping low-season sailings going. This is particularly true on competitive short-haul routes across the English Channel.

Duty-free sales in Community airport shops are estimated at about £930 million a year, more than half of which relates to passengers travelling within the Community. Profits of £194 million are at risk.

There are already pressures on airport authorities to increase capacity and maintain standards. The combined effect of these pressures and lost profits would mean increased airport charges averaging 14 per cent. In Britain, however,

**The number of passengers on charter and scheduled services within the Community could be reduced by up to 2.1 million**

the impact is likely to be greater. The threatened increase in airport charges is between 25 and 39 per cent.

Charter and scheduled airlines notch up duty-free sales of £301 million a year in the Community. They estimate that the loss of these sales would threaten a 10 per cent increase in charter tickets and an increase of 2.8 to 3.7 per cent in inclusive tour holiday prices.

Across the Community, it is feared that the rise in holiday prices would reduce demand by 1.6 million charter passengers. It is also estimated that, on non-Community routes, lower ticket prices and the continuing availability of duty-free could lead to between 50,000 and 150,000 tourists switching from Community to non-Community destinations.

Overall, the number of passengers on charter and scheduled services within the Community could be reduced by up to 2.1 million.

Furthermore, the effect of the threatened loss of duty-free sales within the Community does not take account of the proposed application of VAT to air travel, which is likely to add another 5 to 10 per cent to air fares.

Anthony Cox

## We shouldn't give away Duty Free.

ASAAS, the Association of Suppliers to Airports, Airlines and Shipping, congratulates Times Newspapers on its initiative in bringing to the notice of the British public the effects of the European Commission's plan to end intra-community duty free sales in 1992.

The Association, representing leading manufacturers, sees no point nor benefit in suppressing a long-established, highly developed and booming industry, which provides jobs throughout the UK, and which helps significantly in the financing of airports, airlines and shipping as well as subsidising travel costs for every individual who flies and sails from the UK.

The loss of current intra-community duty and tax free business will be a serious blow for suppliers, particularly in the UK, which is by far the largest and dominant European duty free market.

ASAAS along with other trade associations is actively engaged in lobbying Government and the European Commission. Time is running out and now is the moment for the British public to register its own protest at the loss of its traditional rights and the imposition of substantially increased travel costs by writing to local MPs and MEPs in Brussels.

Association of Suppliers to Airlines, Airports & Shipping



Lack of space means many members are not listed here.

Hine  
Isle of Jura  
J & B  
Jack Daniel  
Jim Beam  
John Player  
John Smith  
Johnnie Walker  
Kahlua  
King Edward  
Krug  
Lagerfeld  
Lambert & Butler  
Lamb's Navy  
Langs  
Lanson  
Laphroaig  
Long John  
Malibu  
Marlboro  
Martell  
Martini Rossi  
Metaxa  
Montine  
Mumm  
Orlane  
Orford  
Pernod  
Peter Stuyvesant  
Pimm's  
Polignac  
Remy Martin  
Rothmans  
Sandeman  
Schweppes  
Silk Cut  
Skol  
Smirnoff  
Sobranie  
Stella Artois  
Superkings  
Tanqueray  
Teachers  
Vladivostok  
Whitbread  
White Horse  
White Star  
Whyte & Mackay  
Willem II  
William Grant  
William Lawson  
Winston



**B.A.T. (U.K. and Export) Limited**

**B.A.T. (U.K. and Export) Limited supports the aims of the International Duty Free Confederation and the National Associations in the campaign for the defence of intra community Duty Free**



## DUTY-FREE SHOPPING/2

## FOCUS

## Boarding up the gold mine

Duty-free sales account for about twenty per cent of BAA's annual revenue, reports Harvey Elliott

Once past the long and often debilitating queues at airport check-ins and security, most airline passengers have one thought on their minds — the duty-free shop.

The glittering array of goods on sale in the open-plan shops, which now dominate the departure lounges of most airports, acts like a magnet to all kinds of travellers.

BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, has realized just how important this is and is steadily increasing the amount of space set aside for duty-free and tax-free sales. Five per cent of the terminal area is now given over to these outlets.

And despite the occasional complaint from airlines that the airport authorities are concentrating more on retailing than on looking after the airlines' interests by getting passengers on board as quickly and painlessly as possible, the fact is that 5 per cent of space creates between 15 and 20 per cent of BAA's revenue — well over £100 million a year out of an income of £641 million.

At Heathrow's Terminal Two, from which most of the European flights originate, the duty and tax-free shop has the highest turnover per sq ft of any retail outlet in Britain, beating even the always crowded Marks and Spencer store at Marble Arch, central London.

Duty-free sales are similarly important for airports throughout the world, with Honolulu leading the league table in total sales.

Once the fiscal harmony being pursued by the European Community is introduced in 1992, however, much of this enormous gold mine could be forced to close down as intra-European sales — which now account for half the duty-free income at BAA airports — is outlawed.

It is a prospect which is



Opportunities to save: perfume sales from Heathrow Airport amount to 13 per cent of the entire British market

causing growing concern to airports throughout Europe. They argue that well over £900 million worth of sales are made each year at EC airport shops, of which about 56 per cent comes from passengers travelling within the Community.

If they are forced to give this up, they say, this will mean a loss of £194 million a year in profits, based on last year's sales, or an estimated £251 million within the next five years.

The only way of recouping this loss, according to most experts, is to increase other charges by an average of 14 per cent. If increases in charges were limited to intra-European traffic — as seems only fair — then it is estimated that airport charges would have to rise throughout the EC by an average of 31 per cent.

It is worrying not only to the major airports. Luton Airport's director, David Bates, says that his airport — with 85 per cent of its flights going to

EC countries — receives around £3 million from duty-free sales, which helps to keep charges down.

Birmingham airport could stand to lose around £3 million in direct revenue, according to its director, Bob Taylor.

And Bristol, where 70 per cent of flights go to the Continent, says that it too would face losses of about £1 million a year if the allowance were to be abolished.

Allen Munds, managing director of Gatwick Airport Ltd, maintains that passengers expect to be able to buy duty-free at airports before departure and would be angry if it were taken away.

"The opportunity to save money on purchases of spirits, cigarettes, perfumes etc has always been one of the perks of the journey," he said.

By capitalizing on this perk, Gatwick earned £40 million from duty-free sales last year.

"As holidaymakers, they are usually in a spending mood and are good customers for tax and duty-free shops. By choosing to spend their money in this way, they are making an

entirely voluntary contribution to the finances of the airport," he says.

Their cash helps to provide additional facilities which are constantly needed to keep the airport at the forefront of the world's travel centres and any loss of revenue would have to be compensated for by increased charges elsewhere.

If this was kept to European flights only, Mr Munds says, it would mean an increase in charges of around 35 per cent — the equivalent of 2.5 per cent to scheduled air fares and even more for charter operations.

Such an increase, he predicts, would result in a drop in the number of people flying from Gatwick by about 300,000 a year, resulting in a further squeeze on revenue.

At Heathrow, passengers buy 520 million cigarettes, 13 million cigars, 31 tons of pipe and cigarette tobacco and 6.1 million bottles of liquor each year.

For years the traditional duty-free purchases of ciga-

The Heathrow shop makes more per square foot than the biggest Marks & Spencer

rettes and spirits accounted for the bulk of the sales, but recently there has been an upsurge in the sale of perfume and tax-free products, as the airport, together with others throughout the world, takes steps to minimize the potential effects of the loss of duty-free sales within Europe.

Perfume sales at Heathrow, for example, now amount to 13 per cent of the entire UK market.

Some airports greatly reduce their own "cut" of duty-free profits to the absolute minimum in order to encourage airlines to land there — Dubai, for example, has probably the world's cheapest duty-free shop, in a bid to attract stop-over flights.

BAA has, however, decided on a policy of trying to woo as many customers as possible — yet still ensure a healthy profit.

Whisky, vodka and rum, for example, are sold at 40 per cent less than the average high-street price. Brandy is sold at a discount of 35 per cent while champagne, port and sherry is sold at 20 per cent less. Cigarettes have 40 per cent knocked off while cigars and pipe tobacco are reduced by 20 per cent.

Investigators employed by BAA regularly tour rival outlets to ensure that the companies granted the concession to operate the duty-free shops stick to the rules.

It means that a litre bottle of Famous Grouse Whisky sells for £7.50 at the airport compared with the average high-street price of £12.57. Gordon's Gin costs £6.65 compared with £11.15 and a Courvoisier VSOP brandy can be bought for £18.85 instead of £31.49.

They are the kinds of savings irresistible to most passengers and which appear to make everyone the winner — except perhaps the Inland Revenue and the bureaucrats in Brussels.

## AIRPORT DUTY-FREE PRICES (£)

	Cigarettes 200 Marlboro	Whisky 1 litre J. Walker	Liquors 1 litre Colonnade	Perfume 50 ml No. 5
London (LHR)	8.50	7.90	11.95	30.40
Paris (CDG)	7.25	6.17	8.33	28.90
Frankfurt	7.94	6.61	8.80	27.50
Rome	6.92	5.72	7.32	29.06
Amsterdam	7.13	6.61	8.08	28.11
Shannon	7.92	6.90	10.57	25.00
Brussels	7.40	6.02	8.70	25.70
Basle	7.30	6.54	10.00	25.00

Source: Euromonitor

## Crews lose an 'important perk'

On-board sales are part of the huge revenue generated by duty-free, with a percentage of the takings usually going to the cabin staff

Airline cabin crews like nothing better than to be rostered for charter holiday flights to Faro, in Portugal. For some reason that destination, more than any other within the Economic Community, attracts high-spending "punters" who like to stock up with duty-free alcohol and tobacco, both on the way out and back. As on almost all charter and scheduled airline flights, the crew gets about 5 per cent of the takings to share among themselves.

Stewards and stewardesses consider it an important "perk". It is also a vital source of revenue for the airlines which, on both scheduled and charter operations, earned about £301 million in duty and tax-free sales on board last year. Charter airlines alone accounted for £190 million of this of which £150 million was spent by passengers travelling within the EC.

Airlines have united in support of the concession. British charter operators predict that the cost of a charter flight will rise by about 10 per cent and a holiday package deal by around 3 per cent if they are forbidden from selling duty-free goods on board their flights.

They also fear that as many as 150,000 tourists a year could change their holiday destinations to non-EC countries, such as Turkey, Switzerland and Cyprus. These countries will not be affected by the harmonization of taxes within the EC and will continue to offer duty-free trading.

Charter airlines benefit most from on-board duty-free sales. Within the EC, 69 per cent of international air travellers fly on charters. More than 80 per cent of all UK-originating international air passengers travel for leisure.

The biggest charter carrier, Britannia, flew seven million passengers a total of 13.5 billion kilometres on its fleet of 42 jets last year from 16 airports in the UK and 130 abroad. About 90 per cent of this total was within the EC.

Like all charter carriers, Britannia works on small profit margins. Any loss in revenue is felt immediately. Its passengers spent an average of £4

each on in-flight duty-free goods last year. This generated £23 million, or 6.86 per cent of turnover.

"Duty-free sales subsidize, painlessly, the cost of leisure flying," says Bob Parker-Eaton, Britannia's director of customer services. "We have calculated that the cost of the air elements of an overseas holiday at an EC resort could rise by as much as 20 per cent, solely through the abolition of duty-free."

Britannia, like many airlines, is seeking new products to sell on its aircraft.

Ken Ford, director of customer services for Monarch Airlines, shares Britannia's concern. He says the six leading charter operators in Britain have duty-free in-flight sales totalling £60 million a year. These sales allow air fares to be reduced by at least 10 per cent. If duty-free sales are ended, jobs will be lost and the effects felt in associated industries.

"Abolition of duty-free will make package holidays more expensive and, therefore, weaken the EC travel market," Mr Ford says. "The industry works on tight profit margins and the loss would have to be passed on to the holidaymaker."

He says travellers view duty-free shopping as part of their overall holiday — 87 per cent buy some duty-free item, spending an average of £15.



Backing the flight: hostesses also oppose abolition of duty-free

"It does seem ironic that while 1992 has been set as the date when Europe will be open to business, those of us in the travel industry and our customers could find ourselves facing increased costs and fewer benefits," Mr Ford says.

Charter airlines, which rely on duty-free sales to bring in nearly 7 per cent of their total operating revenue, will be hardest hit by a change in the legislation. Scheduled

airlines, although not as badly affected, are also worried. British Airways gives away about £6 million worth of duty-free goods — mainly in the form of free drinks — on its international flights each year. It estimates paying the full duty price for the liquor and tobacco it carries on board would cost an extra £10 million a year.

Like other scheduled airlines, British Airways does not offer duty-free goods on most short-haul services within Europe. But it still earns £20 million a year from duty-free sales on its long-haul worldwide operations. About 60 per cent of this comes from gifts, such as jewellery, watches and perfume.

Prices on board are often lower than those in airport duty-free stores. A well-known brand of perfume costs £27, compared with £32 duty-free on the ground.

What worries British Airways is that if the EC abolishes duty-free, other countries — especially Switzerland — would be able to attract transit flights to a hub airport at Zurich, for example, where no restrictions are planned.

Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

## Dilemma of dogma

ABOLITION of duty-free shopping is a question of dogma, says William Mass, chairman of the Brussels-based International Duty-Free Confederation (IDFC). "Why should the normally intelligent officials of the European Commission feel it necessary to suppress a thriving industry that gives pleasure to many, provides a considerable number of jobs and keeps travel costs down?" he asked at *The International Herald Tribune* duty-free seminar in London last week.

Mr Mass said "dogma" was the reason. "The removal of frontier controls by the end of 1992 is seen not only in practical terms, but as a symbol of the removal of barriers separating one European nation from another. Hence, some argue that anything which seems to accentuate the fact that a community citizen is moving from one country to another within Europe should no longer exist," he said.

Mr Mass said this view was "ridiculous". There would continue to be considerable cultural and other differences between EC countries after 1992, and it was unacceptable that an industry as important as duty-free should be sacrificed for "mere doctrinal reasons".

A study commissioned by the IDFC from The Netherlands Institute for Economic Research showed that total EC duty-free turnover in 1988 in the EC was an estimated 2.2 billion European Currency Units (ECU), twice as much as the EC will spend on salaries this year. The total income generated by intra-EC sales was about 700 million ECU.

Further, the duty-free industry contributed to the creation of thousands of jobs in retailing, distribution and production. Jobs in duty and tax-free retail outlets alone was estimated at 7,200.

Mr Mass said the EC's "main problem" was with control. "Duty-free at present is kept within clear limits in terms of volume or value. Control lies with customs officials, who, if the EC is successful in its endeavours, will no longer be present at frontier posts after 1992."

"There is no doubt that if every citizen were able to go out every day to buy unlimited quantities of goods without paying VAT or excise duties, there would be considerable implications for the national exchequers of individual countries."

He said that supporters of duty-free would need to tackle the problem of control, and that the IDFC was working on plans for a system of control at the point of sale, which the industry would

Anthony Cox

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# Tide will turn on ferry profitability

Water-transport fares are set to rise and less popular routes could be abandoned if abolition of duty-free goes ahead, writes Malcolm Brown

Ferry passengers could find themselves paying much higher fares and even losing some services during the winter if the duty-free allowance is abolished. The economics of passenger ferries means that a loss of duty-free revenues would knock a hole in their finances, say the operators — one which they could not make up from other paying services from the customer. The only alternative would be a fare increase.

The Duty-Free Confederation, which represents all sections of the tax-free trade, says that seven ferry companies operating from the UK had combined duty-free sales of about £160 million in 1987, the last year for which figures are available. The operators say that duty-free sales amount to 62 per cent of all on-board sales and contribute an average of nearly 18 per cent to total revenues.

The groups which would be affected by any change in the duty-free rules include UK-based lines such as P & O,

Sealink and Sally Line, and foreign-operated companies such as Brittany Ferries and the Olan Line.

Duty-free sales have become an important part of ferry companies' income over the years, says David Asprey, manager of home-shipping policy for the General Council of British Shipping, which represents shipping interests in the confederation.

"It varies in importance in terms of proportion of their total income from 12 per cent on some of the longer-haul routes, which are bringing in more money from other sorts of on-board facilities, such as cabins and restaurants, to as much as 25 per cent, maybe even 30 per cent on some of the short-haul routes, particularly Dover-Calais, Dover-Boulogne, where we are talking of a 90-minute trip. The scope for doing many different things with passengers is rather limited if you are not selling cabins and those sorts of services."

The ability to sell duty-free has become a critical factor in



A major revenue earner: UK ferry companies say on-board duty-free sales account for 18 per cent of income

the economic viability of short sea routes, Mr Asprey says, particularly in the winter season when the proportion of income which comes from duty-free sales is much higher. "The number of passengers is much smaller. The lines use duty-free to encourage people to travel. They reduce the fare — sometimes through promo-

tional fares to very low amounts, £5 or £10 — because they can achieve further sales from duty-free or restaurants or gaming machines in order to provide sufficient income to maintain that service through the low season.

"Fares would have to go up if the duty-free concession was removed," Mr Asprey says.

There are alternative revenue earners, but none of them could make up for the loss of duty-free sales.

"There has been much talk of turning ships into floating hyper-markets and boutiques, but it is doubtful whether some of those activities would attract passengers and it is certainly true that none of

them could achieve the profit margins which duty-free shops can provide at the moment. So whatever the ferry companies did in terms of finding alternative sources of income, there would be major increases in fares."

The argument which duty-free operators have been putting to politicians and

Whitehall is that even if customs controls go, there is no intrinsic reason why the duty-free allowance has to also go. The allowance certainly needs to be policed, otherwise it would be abused, but there are other ways of policing in the absence of customs officers.

One in which shippers are particularly interested is the system operating in Scandinavia. Sales to passengers embarking at ports in Finland, Sweden, Denmark or Norway are policed by the sellers of the goods.

"They have been operating this system for many years now," Mr Asprey says. "The duty-free shop seller restricts the volume that he sells to the passenger. That is backed up by accounting systems satisfactory to the tax authorities of the four countries which effectively controls how much the passenger can arrive at a port with."

Michael Aiken, passenger services director of Sealink British Ferries, says the British would certainly be prepared to operate the vendor-control system.

"In fact we are suggesting that at the moment as a way of doing it," he says.

"It would be wrong to whip away a crucial part of the ferry's business, Mr Aiken says. It is a fundamental part of what the ferry is offering, as fundamental as the cabins which hotel chains offer over and above the provision of rooms.

Passenger ferries are an immense business, Mr Aiken says. The quantities of duty-free goods involved are enormous. Sealink's figures give some idea of what is at stake. In all, Mr Aiken says, duty-free sales represent about 25 per cent of the company's income from passenger business. It sells nearly 750,000 bottles of whisky a year, 250,000 bottles of brandy, 320,000 bottles of liqueurs and more than half a million bottles of gin.

The prospect of a change in the duty-free rules can be seen

if one looks at just one of Sealink's routes, the Welsh-Irish sea route between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire. More than 6,000 cases of Irish whisky were bought duty-free on that run last year. In total, about £7.4 million of duty-free is sold each year on the route.

Mr Asprey says that if the duty-free business goes, there might be a cut-back in the frequency of some services.

"It's unlikely that the frequency of service in mid-winter across the Channel could remain the same if it were not for the income stream from duty-free shops."

Some Danish shipowners have gone further, Mr Asprey says, and are saying that there are routes which would be unviable if it were not for the contribution which duty-free sales make to their income.

Whatever happens on duty-free is unlikely to have a major impact on jobs. There are about 6,000 people employed in the ferry business, but, except in the event of whole services being cut, jobs are unlikely to be at risk if duty-free concessions go. This is because duty-free staff are also part of the safety crew. If the duty-free shops go they will still be needed for safety purposes, but the income from duty-free would no longer offset their wages.

The abolition of duty-free allowances is not the only threat from Brussels. They are also concerned about suggestions that VAT may be applied to passenger fares and to ships' fuel.

The legislators must take account of the differing natures of the countries involved in the Community, Mr Aiken says. Impositions such as these would make no difference at all to the movement of goods between Germany and France, for example, but would have an immense impact on countries like the UK.

"The view we take," Mr Aiken says, "is that in making European legislative changes it is very important that the individual characteristics of the member states are recognized, particularly the sea-frontier nations."

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## Open borders threaten trade

As 1992 draws near, suppliers are faced with a challenge for effective marketing

Tobacco products are estimated to account for between 25 and 40 per cent of the total turnover of duty-free trade in the European Community.

Yet, according to Paul Bingham, marketing manager for British American Tobacco, "tobacco has an importance greater than that indicated by its proportion of turnover, because the price savings generate a customer flow and act as an incentive to a shopper to purchase goods in duty-free outlets."

Duty-free tobacco is an integral part of the duty-free business and, the tobacco suppliers have been at the forefront of the fight to prevent the premature abolition of the duty-free perk.

"We have consistently put forward the argument that the key issue is not 1992, but the completion of the internal market. The current signs are that the EC has foregone 1992 as a target date by which all elements of the internal market will be implemented. In particular, harmonization of indirect taxation and excise duties will almost certainly not be achieved by that date."

Mr Bingham told delegates attending the International Herald Tribune's duty-free seminar in London last week. "The real threat to intra-Community duty-free is that 'open borders' and the removal of customs officers from national frontiers will be used as a justification for the termination of duty-free. Open borders are not the same as the creation of the internal market because widely divergent tax-induced price differences will remain beyond 1993."

Mr Bingham added that duty-free tobacco sales accounted for less than 2 per cent of all EC tobacco sales in volume. He also said that duty-free shoppers did not buy on an occasional or impulse basis and that if duty-free were to be abolished, tobacco purchases would simply be transferred to the duty-paid market.

"The challenge to tobacco suppliers is really a challenge to the overall duty-free industry, because tobacco contributes a very significant proportion of the industry's profits," he said.

"Duty-free is the shop window for many high-quality European products with considerable 'upgrading' by shoppers. Should duty-free

disappear, the challenge to all suppliers is the problem of effectively marketing these products." Mr Bingham added that European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members would follow the EC's lead, and that Eastern Europe posed a "critical question".

"Eastern European countries will almost certainly regard duty-free as a significant incentive to attract tourism and to derive hard-currency earnings," he said.

Of the challenge to alcohol beverage suppliers from the abolition of duty-free shopping, Donald Coe, president of Allied-Lyons International Brands, says: "We shall all have to be ashamed of ourselves in the alcohol beverage business if we do not do everything possible to protect and enhance a business which represents, if we lose, a Scotch whisky market equal in size to the West German domestic market."

According to Nicholas Ratus, the export director of Parfums Jean Patou, perfume manufacturers also stand to lose from the loss of duty-free shopping.

"Luxury goods are by definition superfluous to our daily life. International travel environments are, therefore, ideal places to attract this type of customers," he says.

In 1988, total world sales of duty-free perfumes and cosmetics amounted to \$2.7 billion, which is a record-breaking increase of 20 per cent on 1987.

A little over half of these perfume sales is generated by European shops and \$702 million is estimated to come from sales to intra-European travellers.

Mr Ratus, estimating the average loss in sales to a perfume house of EC duty-free business at about 6.25 per cent, said that he could not see the perfume manufacturers crossing out 6.25 per cent of their selective distribution market which every single per cent counts in the race for turnover.

"We must continue to differentiate between domestic and paid business and international tax-paid or duty-free business. If we can do this and at the same time expand within the confines of EC law, then we can look forward to 1993 and beyond with confidence."

Anthony Cox



Continued From  
Page 10

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Continued on next page

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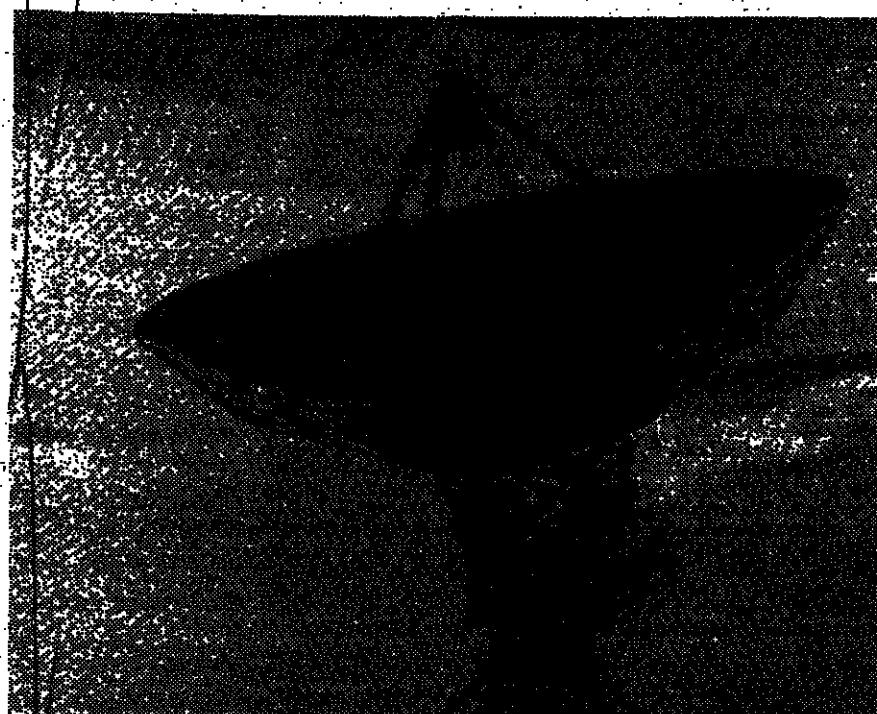
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## THE LAW

# 'Pack the judges off to jail'

It is hardly surprising that inmates of local prisons, built by Victorians and little altered since, demonstrate their discontent when one considers the comparative material improvements in living conditions enjoyed by those at liberty. Where does the blame lie? Much must rest with those responsible for sending people to prison. If, perhaps, sentences were more aware of prison conditions and their wider effects, they would be more susceptible to Government exhortations to use imprisonment only as a genuine last resort for those awaiting trial and as a punishment.

English courts imprison more people proportionately than most of their European counterparts, and for longer periods. Thus, unless courts can be persuaded to use custody less, chronic overcrowding — acknowledged to be the main factor contributing to the appalling conditions which exist in all but the most modern local prisons — will remain.

Attempts to persuade sentencers, through Green and White Papers and associated legislation, that non-custodial options offer viable and sensible alternatives to imprisonment is part of the sol-



**Anthony Heaton-Armstrong on a remedy for bad prison conditions**

ution. It will, it is hoped, point the way towards a reduced use of custody for the 75 per cent or so of offenders awaiting trial (or convicted) of what Paul Cavadiuo of the National Council for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders terms "acquisitive offences" — largely burglary and theft.

But as well as these initiatives, it is becoming increasingly accepted that, as an additional spur, sentencers should become better acquainted with the nature of imprisonment and its impact on the prisoner and his or her family and associates.

Until 1979, when the Judicial Studies Board was created, formalized judicial training was a

novel concept. Previously, newly appointed judges were not encouraged to visit prisons, although some did, seeing this as part of their wider duties. Even now, prison governors confirm that prison visits by judges are comparatively rare.

Occasionally, an individual will take an extreme view of his role: in 1972 Lord Kilbrandon, the late Scottish law lord, suggested judges might consider refusing to send someone to a prison where the conditions resulted in mental, physical or moral degradation, since this would involve them in acting beyond their powers.

The training for new judges, invariably part-time on first appointment, follows their appointment, which is unusual for professionals. It comprises three and a half days in-house training, including a mock trial and lectures on sentencing practice, a week observing an experienced judge at work, a visit to the probation service, and also to at least one prison service establishment.

But there is no requirement to satisfy the Lord Chancellor before sitting that they are adequately informed about prison conditions or the social pressures on those who appear before them. There



Official view: The Government wants judges to use imprisonment only as a genuine last resort

are no reading lists, no recommended courses of instruction in criminology; simply a broad assumption that in their experience as practitioners and through their one visit to a prison they will have picked up enough knowledge to decide whether the defendant is, in the words of Sir Frederick Lawton, the retired Lord Justice of Appeal, "mad, bad or just deserving of a 'last chance' or, perhaps, a long sentence."

It is only recently that judges have been actively encouraged to see for themselves what imprisonment is all about on a more regular and scientific basis.

This may have been precipitated by the appointment of

Stephen Tumin, a judge, as Chief Inspector of Prisons. He emphasizes the benefit that can follow from prison visits. And Sir Robin Auld, the High Court judge who chairs the Criminal Committee of the Judicial Studies Board, states: "The board encourages judges to visit their local establishments to familiarize themselves with the regimes there and recognizes the beneficial effects that such visits can have on staff morale." The board's chairman, Lord Justice Gidwell, recently wrote to the presiding judges of the circuits reiterating this.

A panel of prison governors has been drawn up to provide those attending judicial sentencing sem-

inars with further insights into prison conditions, from the "horses' mouths".

There are practical difficulties, not least those of time and money. Judge release days — days out of court for training purposes negotiated with the Lord Chancellor's Department — do not allow judges to occupy their paid sitting days with visits to prisons. These must take place either in their free time or when an early day at court allows them to arrange a visit at short notice. Organized visits, for a group of judges, tend to become somewhat sanitized affairs, affording little or no realistic view of what actually goes on.

Mr Justice Auld stresses the ad-

'Lord Kilbrandon, the late law lord, suggested judges might consider refusing to send someone to a jail where conditions resulted in mental, physical or moral degradation, since this would involve them in acting beyond their powers'

vantages of informal visits by individuals with the chance of more relaxed chats with inmates and staff unimpeded by the spotlight.

It would be trite to suggest that regular visits to prisons by judges would provide a comprehensive panacea to prison overcrowding. But it is at least clear that those responsible for training and retaining sentencers now accept that more intimate and up-to-date knowledge of the prison system, its occupants and the broader effects of imprisonment is a useful weapon in the sentencing armoury.

© The author is a practising barrister and has been a prison visitor at Wormwood Scrubs, west London, for 17 years.

## Law Report April 10 1990 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

# Extending law of blasphemy would be likely do more harm than good

**Regina v Bow Street Magistrate, Ex parte Choudhary**

Before Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Roch (Judgment April 9)

The law of blasphemy did not extend to religions other than Christianity. The law was not uncertain and the mere fact that it was anomalous or even unjust did not justify the court in changing it.

Even were it open to the court to extend the law to cover religions other than Christianity it would be virtually impossible by judicial decision to set sufficiently clear limits to the offence. Extending the law of blasphemy would pose insuperable problems and would be likely to do more harm than good.

The European Convention on Human Rights did not demand of the United Kingdom the creation of a law of blasphemy for the protection of Islam.

The offence of seditious libel demanded not only proof of an intention to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of her Majesty's subjects but also proof of an incitement to violence or resistance or defiance for the purposes of disturbing constituted authority.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in rejecting an application by Abdul Hussain Choudhary for judicial review of the refusal of Sir David Hopkin, Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, on March 13, 1989 to grant summonses against Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, and Viking Penguin Ltd, publishers of *The Satanic Verses* for the common law offences of

blasphemous libel and seditious libel.

Mr Ali Mohammed Azhar for the applicant, Mr Anthony Lester, QC and Mr David Pennick for Viking Penguin, QC, Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC, Mr Edward Fitzgerald and Mr Keir Starmer for Mr Rushdie, Mr David Paget as *amicus curiae*.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, giving the judgment of the court, said there could be little doubt that the contents of *The Satanic Verses* had deeply offended many law-abiding Muslims who were United Kingdom citizens.

The particulars of the alleged blasphemy included describing God as "the destroyer of Man", vilifying the prophet Abraham, referring to Mohammed as Mahound, vilifying Mohammed's wives and companions and vilifying and ridiculing the teachings of Islam as containing too many rules and seeking to

control every aspect of day-to-day life.

Mr Lester had submitted on a preliminary point that the Divisional Court would not grant judicial review of the decision of a magistrate which was made in the lawful, even if erroneous, exercise of his judgment and discretion.

In their Lordships' opinion, the magistrate must exercise judicially his discretion whether to issue a summons.

The magistrate's decision had been based on his ruling that the law of blasphemy in England and Wales protected only the Christian religion. He had made no finding as to whether in fact the book was blasphemous of the Islamic religion.

This was apparently the first case in which a would-be prosecutor had claimed that the offence of blasphemy was applicable to religions other than Christianity.

The common law offence of blasphemy traced its origins to *Taylor's Case* (1676) 1 Vent 293. For the next hundred years or so following that case, the basis of prosecutions was that the defendant had aspersed the Christian religion.

In *Thomas Williams' Case* (1797) 26 State Trials 654, a bookseller who had sold *Thomas Paine's Age of Reason* was indicted for blasphemy. The blasphemy appeared to have included an attack on the Old Testament.

For that reason, Mr Azhar had submitted that blasphemy extended beyond Christianity to Judaism. However, it was clear from Gray's passages in the report that it was only because it was an attack on the Christian religion that an attack on the Old Testament was indictable.

The most explicit statement of the law was to be found in *Guthrie's Case* (1838) 2

Lewin 237. Baron Alderson had directed the jury that:

"A person cannot without being liable to prosecution for it, attack Judaism, or Mahomedanism, or even any sect of the Christian religion (save the established religion of the country); and the only reason why that latter is in a different situation from the others is, because it is the form established by law, and is therefore a part of the constitution of the country."

Mr Azhar had submitted that the decision in *Guthrie's Case* had been reversed two years later in *Hefferington* (1840) 4 State Trials (NS) 563 where the matter complained of related solely to the Old Testament and the defendant was convicted.

That submission was based on a misconception. Lord Denham had said in *Hefferington* that the decisive ground was that the "Old Testament is so connected with the New that it is impossible that such a publication as this could be altered without reflecting upon Christianity itself".

By the middle of the nineteenth century, no doubt as a result of the revolution in thought brought about by Darwin and others, the essential elements of the offence were beginning to change.

It was no longer blasphemous to make a sober reasoned attack on the Christian religion, it had become a punishable offence of that religion, although the shift of policy seemed to ignore the fact that reasoned and sober discussion was likely to have a greater undermining effect on religion than scurrilous insults.

The change was firmly established by the time of *R v Ramsay and Foote* (1883) 15 Cox CC 231. His Lordship did not accept Mr Azhar's contention that that case was authority for extending the law beyond Christianity.

In *Bowman v Secular Society* (1917) AC 406 the House of Lords were clearly dealing with the offence only in relation to Christianity.

That was a civil case, and there had since been only two blasphemy prosecutions. In *R v Galt* (1922) 16 Cr App R 87 Mr Justice Atkin directed the jury that blasphemy was directed to words "scriptures or sacred persons or objects". Mr Azhar had submitted that those went wider than Christianity. In the court's judgment they did not.

In *R v Lemon*, the *Gay News* case, the trial judge, Judge King-Williams, QC, had ruled on a motion to quash the indictment on the ground that blasphemy was no longer an offence. He had said:

"In my judgment, therefore, the offence of blasphemous libel today occurs when there is published anything concerning God, Christ, or the Christian religion in terms so scurrilous, abusive or offensive as to outrage the feelings of any member of, or sympathiser with, the Christian religion and would tend to lead to a breach of the peace."

"I would be prepared to extend the definition to cover attacks on some other religion, as we have now become a multi-religious state, but it is not necessary for me to go so far for the purpose of the present case."

If that was intended to be a statement of the existing law it was, in their Lordships' view, plainly wrong, as was clear from the report of the case in the Court of Appeal ([1979] 1 QB 10) and the House of Lords ([1979] AC 617).

Agreeing with the dictum of Judge King-Williams, the authority of the case law was all one way. Their Lordships had no doubt that as the law now stood it did not extend to religions other than Christianity.

Mr Azhar had submitted that it could and should be extended to cover other religions on the ground that it was anomalous and unjust to discriminate in favour of one religion.

In their Lordships' judgment where the law was clear it was not the proper function of the court to extend it; that was particularly so in criminal cases where offences could not be retrospectively created. In those circumstances it was for Par-

liament alone to change the law.

A number of unsuccessful attempts had been made in the past to change the law in Parliament. In 1985 the majority of the Law Commission had recommended that the offence of blasphemy be abolished.

Their Lordships thought it right to say that had it been open to them to extend the law to cover religions other than Christianity, they would have refrained from doing so.

Considerations of public policy were extremely difficult and complex. It would be virtually impossible by judicial decision to set sufficiently clear limits to the offence and other problems involved were formidable.

Among other matters, consideration would have to be given to the kinds of religions to be protected and how a religion was to be defined. Although an English jury might be expected, or certainly had been in the last century, to understand the tenets of Christianity, that would not be so for other religions.

Expert evidence would be needed, no doubt on both sides. If different sects of the same religion had differing views and the published material scandalised one sect and not another, how would the matter be decided?

Since the only material element in the offence was the intention to publish the words complained of, there would be a serious risk that the effect of extending the law to other religions would be to allow, scandalise and outrage some sect or religion.

In any event it would, in their Lordships' view, be wholly wrong to extend the law in the light of the majority opinion of the Law Commission in favour of its abolition, even if the court had the power to do so.

Mr Azhar had submitted that there must be a provision in English law to enforce the guarantee of freedom of religion contained in the European Convention on Human Rights.

If the law of blasphemy was designed to protect Christianity alone, he had submitted, it meant that other religions had been left unprotected since the Convention was signed in 1950, a situation which was incomprehensible.

However, the contents of articles 9, 10 and 14 of the Convention made it plain that freedom of religion was not unfettered.

Mr Lester had accepted that the obligations imposed on the United Kingdom were sources of public policy where the common law was uncertain. But the common law of blasphemy was certain. Accordingly it was not necessary to pay any regard to the Convention.

He had gone further and asserted that if the application was successful the rights of Mr Rushdie and of Viking Penguin as protected by article 7 and 10 of the Convention, would be violated.

Article 7 provided that a person should not be found guilty of a criminal offence for an act which did not constitute an offence at the time it was committed.

Article 10 guaranteed freedom of expression subject to exceptions. Mr Lester contended that neither of the respondents had come within any of those exceptions, especially in the light of the fact that blasphemy in the United Kingdom applied to Christianity alone.

Mr Lester had said that the applicant was seeking to interfere with a well-founded right of freedom of expression. Freedom of religion, in Mr Lester's submission, was not absolute and had to tolerate certain restrictions, including that of it not including the right to bring criminal proceedings for blasphemy where it could not be shown that a domestic law had been offended against.

Dealing with Mr Azhar's contention that the absence of a law of blasphemy, to protect Muslims was a denial of the enjoyment of rights and freedoms under the Convention, Mr Lester had said that the European Commission of Human Rights had decided in *Application No 3798/68 Church of X v United Kingdom* (1968) that it was inadmissible to complain of discrimination in breach of the

Convention on the ground that the law of blasphemy protected only the Christian but not other religion.

Mr Lester had argued that even if there was discrimination in the exercise of freedom of religion it had an objective and reasonable justification, and therefore involved no breach of article 14 of the Convention.

The offence of blasphemous libel was an offence of strict liability. It was no defence that the defendant did not intend to blaspheme. As it stood, Mr Lester had submitted, the offence was capable of leading to unreasonable interference with freedom of expression in breach of article 10.

If the offence was extended to cover attacks upon religious doctrines, tenets, commandments, or practices other than Christianity, the existence of such an extended law of blasphemy would create intolerable divisiveness and unreasonable interference with freedom of expression, Mr Lester submitted.

Their Lordships agreed that extending the law of blasphemy would pose insuperable problems and would be likely to do more harm than good. They could not think that the makers of the Convention could have had in mind such an extension of the law in this country as giving expression to the right of freedom of religion.

Mr Lester had persuaded their Lordships convincingly that the Convention did not demand, within any of articles 7, 9, 10 or 14, the creation of a law of blasphemy for the protection of Islam so that as a signatory to the Convention, the United Kingdom should be in conformity with it. Mr Azhar's attempt to invoke the assistance of the Convention was, in their Lordships' judgment, unavailing.

Turning to seditious libel, Mr Azhar had given three reasons why the book amounted to seditious libel. First, it had the effect of creating discontent among her Majesty's subjects, second, it had created hostility between different classes of those subjects, and third it had caused the breakdown of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Iran and damaged relations with other Islamic states.

The magistrate had ruled that the evidence had to show, and did not, that the book attacked her Majesty or her Majesty's Government or some other institution of the State. He had said: "The essential part of [the offence of seditious libel] is that any action should be directed against the state."

In their Lordships' judgment the common law of seditious libel had been accurately stated by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Boucher v The King* ([1951] 2 DLR 369).

In that case a member of Jehovah's Witnesses was convicted of seditious libel for pamphlets entitled "Judges' turning hate for God and Christ and freedom" which detailed instances of alleged persecution of members of Jehovah's Witnesses and charged the Roman Catholic Church influenced the courts and the administration of justice in Quebec.

The court had held that the seditious intention required to found a prosecution for seditious libel was an intention to incite to violence or to create public disturbance or disorders against his Majesty or the institutions of Government.

Proof of an intention to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of subjects did not alone establish a seditious intention.

Not only had there to be proof of an intention to violence or to create disorders, but it had to be violence or resistance or disturbance for the purpose of disturbing constituted authority.

It was the absence in the present case of the vital element of public mischief, the element of attacking, obstructing or undermining public authority which the magistrate had relied on in refusing the summons.

In their Lordships' judgment it was absolutely right to do so.

Solicitors: Rahman & Co, South Tottenham; Miskin De Reya; Simons-Mainland & Burton, Treasury Solicitor.

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## THE LAW

## Hustle and hassle in the Lords

Lord Simon of Glaisdale reprimands the Government for 'stifling' debate on the Courts and Legal Services Bill

The Courts and Legal Services Bill has now completed its passage through the House of Lords. This passage, and the period of consultation on the proposals beforehand, has been marked by a timetable of inordinate haste, effectively inhibiting proper debate.

The Bill's principal provisions conflict with the recommendations (accepted by the Government) of the Royal Commission on Legal Services, which reported in 1979 after three years of evidence and consultations.

By contrast, the Bill followed proposals in the Green Papers of early 1989, which were based on no evidence or consultation: they were mere extrusions from departmental entrails. In standard terms, they were by the Department of Trade and Industry out of the Lord Chancellor's department.

Although more than 40 members put their names down to speak on the second reading (others refraining in view of the numbers), only one day was allotted for debate. In spite of curtailment of speeches, however, the debate did not end until nearly midnight.

The advantage to the Government of cramming debate into one day is that criticism is compacted and media coverage halved.

Under standing orders, 14 days must elapse between the second reading, which took place on December 11, 1989, and the Committee stage (essential to allow amendments to be considered and drafted). The first Committee day

was fixed for January 16, 1990. There were thus only three sitting days between second reading and Committee, of which one was the day the House rose and another the day it reassembled. The rest was Christmas recess, when members were dispersed. This arrangement hardly complied with the spirit of standing orders, though it did with their letter. And, after all, it is the letter that killed. When a spate of Government amendments descend-

ed on the House last October, the Opposition leader protested that its private members tend to be elderly (like those of most second chambers) and unsalaried (unusual in this respect). Excessive loads of Government business and late hours are apt to shed critics. The Government can retain a majority based on a "pay vote" of ministers. This power was used implacably. When it came to Committee discussion, originally only four days were allotted. This

was so ludicrously inadequate that, reluctantly, two extra days were successively conceded. Even so, on only one day did the Committee rise before 10.30pm; on three it was forced to sit past midnight, the last being until nearly 3.00am.

At the Report stage, only three days were allotted, though the Government itself tabled 150 amendments—well over half—including six new clauses and two new schedules. The House, despite protests

from all parts, was forced to sit until 11.17pm, 10.45pm and 12.28am.

On only one occasion was there an important debate before a reasonably full House at a reasonable hour. This was on the continuance of the so-called "cab-rank rule", of fundamental constitutional moment, by which an advocate is not permitted to pick and choose his clients, but must undertake the defence of any cause, however unpopular or suspect.

Voting on the amendment was carried against the Government by 99 to 92. The Government was not again going to risk a full debate before a full House. The third reading followed hard on Report, so fast that the Lord Chancellor himself did not have time to table all the amendments he contemplated. The Government again tabled the majority of amendments, 40 out of 67. The full debate on the Bill, as finally shaped, therefore took place on the motion "that the Bill do now pass".

Even Government supporters, even supporters of the Bill, pleaded that the debate should be at a reasonable hour before a reasonably full House. The Government was unmoved. The debate started at 11.00pm. Although most speeches were perfunctory or truncated, it did not end till 12.15am.

What is there about this Bill that debate on it should have to be thus stifled or muffled?

● The author was a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary from 1971 to 1977.



GED.

Edward Fennell reports on how a new firm is getting over the problem of unprofitable legal aid funding

Legal aid work is increasingly coming to be regarded as a vocation rather than a profession, but this poses serious problems for those who are not willing to compromise their professional standards. Although there are regional firms which can make a profit (or sort of) out of such work, it is hard to do so in London, if only because rents and salaries are not adequately covered by the London "uplift". As a result, according to some lawyers, the quality of legal service is being reduced.

One solicitor with direct experience of this problem is Chris Magrath. As one of the founding partners of Powell Magrath & Spencer in the mid-1970s, Mr Magrath has committed to providing high quality legal services to "the man and woman in the street". In effect, this meant primarily a legal aid clientele, although he

## Niche work saves a service

asserts: "A client is a client regardless of where the funding comes from."

That said, Mr Magrath found himself increasingly frustrated as the 1980s wore on by his inability to provide his clients with the best possible service because of the financial constraints under which his firm was operating. Although Powell, Magrath & Spencer grew into one of the biggest firms of its type in London, its profitability declined as legal aid rates failed to keep up with inflation.

To remedy this, Mr Magrath turned his expertise in the immigration field to commercial advantage by offering his services to the corporate market as well as to the local people in north-west London. However, the strain of operating in

two such diverse markets told on the unity of the partnership. After months of internal debate, Mr Magrath decided to leave and, taking 10 colleagues with him, last week opened a new firm, Magrath & Co, in the West End, with the aim of developing an operation based largely on litigation and immigration.

He says: "I have calculated that I can still do about 30 per cent legal aid work, but to do any more would threaten the future of the new firm. I have the same moral commitment as before, but I am now convinced that a quality service to legal aid clients has to be subsidized by substantial corporate work."

To support his commitment, he

has recruited Solly Osman, an immigration specialist, from the West Hampstead Law Centre. The mission of the new firm is to offer the best service to all clients by balancing social commitment with commercial reality.

The moral of this story, however, is not just that smart lawyers adapt to changes in the market place. What Mr Magrath has done, in effect, is to turn the fact that both rich and poor need immigration advice into an opportunity for reaching for wider commercial markets.

In particular, relationships with the United States have been carefully nurtured. Mr Magrath is a member of the New York Bar and, by fostering a relationship with a New York law firm, Givney Anthony &

Flaherty, he has created a circle of opportunity. "Immigration work is increasingly referred to me by my American colleagues, and this in turn leads to associated corporate work," Mr Magrath explained. "An American company setting up a small operation in the UK needs advice on immigration first, but this can easily lead on to work with housing, contracts, and even into litigation."

Mr Magrath's next step is a joint venture with Givney Anthony & Flaherty into Eastern Europe. Still with a focus on immigration, he hopes to win work there at a time when many of these issues are being considered for the first time.

"I believe that the future lies with niche operations which stay ahead of the game and are adaptable," he says. "If you are constantly anticipating where the market is going next, you can do well."

## INNS AND OUTS

From September the secrets of the school records will be opened for the first time to parents and older pupils under the Education Reform Act 1988. The change in the law was promised during the committee stage of the Access to Personal Files Bill, and will apply to manual records held in local education authority schools, grant-maintained schools and special schools. The rules have been criticized, however, for a lack of clarity as to what constitutes a "record", and for failing to provide sufficiently for conflicts of interest.

The rules contemplate that school records might contain confidential information about a pupil's home background; even confidences from a pupil to a teacher on matters of which parents have no knowledge. While the teacher might feel it appropriate to record matters like this, particularly if they have affected the pupil's academic performance, there may be problems if parents request access to the records.

The existing rules do not offer teachers much guidance and could result in teachers recording as little confidential information as possible in order to avoid conflicts.

The arrival in Britain last year of hundreds of Kurdish refugees fleeing alleged persecution in Turkey presented law centres in north London with a range of urgent and complex problems. The South Islington Law Centre's annual report, published this month, describes how the Kurds had to deal simultaneously with the inability to speak English, scepticism about their refugee status from the Home Office, homelessness, unemployment and hostility from local residents. The centre's immigration, housing and employment units all became involved; the immigration unit, for example, has sought a judicial review on a decision to return a Kurdish couple to Turkey, and has joined forces with the Kurdish Refugees Legal Group, which comprises, among others, solicitors in private practice, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, the United Kingdom Immigration Advisory Service and the Medical Aid Foundation, which offers treatment to victims of torture.

The housing unit had to deal with the Government's unwillingness to assist Islington Council financially in finding accommodation for Kurds assessed by the council as homeless. Meanwhile, some private landlords, with whom many of the refugees found temporary accommodation, saw an opportunity for profit. Complaints of overcharging, harassment and illegal eviction flooded into the centre—which gave priority to the refugees despite a 20 per cent (£35,000) cut in funding from the council, leaving it under pressure to find money from elsewhere.

Hildebrandt Inc, the American law firm consultancy, has established an office in London. The chairman, Bradford Hildebrandt, a former policeman in New Jersey, is preaching the message of the American legal market in London. "Clients have become more demanding, competition is getting intense, profitability has become more elusive, and growth has become essential for survival," creating, he says, the need for advice from consultants experienced in the United States. The prospect of the UK legal market going the way of the Americans may not, however, prove popular. Over the past decade many American firms have gone under, often despite bringing in a consultant or, as some United States observers remark, occasionally, because of it.

Hildebrandt's London office will be headed by Stephen Mayson, formerly with the David Andrews Partnership, the UK law firm management consultants, which has an association with Hildebrandt's main rival, Altman & Well. Mr Hildebrandt and Mr Andrews had discussed a possible merger but, Mr Andrews says: "We had come to the conclusion that the British and European legal markets, for the most part, were not yet mature enough for the American approach in management; except, perhaps, for a few very large firms."

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## HORIZONS

## Facing up to a bright future

When you flick through glossy magazines looking at the faces of film stars or watch as film stars come into close-up, consider why the faces match the images and characters so perfectly. Fashionable images are as much a make-up design as a clothes style and in performance, too, looks enhance acting. Make-up artists—a job title which assumes hair and sometimes wig skills—are used in film and television and in leading theatre and opera companies (although most theatre performers do their own make-up).

Whether the setting is a photographic or film studio, the make-up artist is the last person to come into contact with the model or actor so no head of sweat or stray hair spoils the perfect shot. Stamina, to cope with an on-the-feet job with intensive and erratic hours, is as necessary as artistic flair.

There are three categories of work for this indispensable behind-the-scenes skill: stills for fashion and advertising, television or feature film and live performance. For stills, the make-up artists are usually

## Make-up artists enjoy their work.

Bernardine

## Coverley looks at the foundations of this skilled career

freelance and have their own extensive range of cosmetics and hair care equipment for which a "rent" is paid as part of the fee. BBC television employ make-up artists who have successfully completed the internal training course.

Graded opportunities start with assistant, moving to artist and then to make-up designer. JOBBIT, a scheme sponsored by the media industry's unions and Channel Four, has recently added training in make-up/hair with a combined placement and college-based course. And an increasing number of independent courses offers both initial training and specialized courses for those already in the business.

A make-up artist must learn techniques to camouflage broken veins or pimples and highlight muscles and to mask bruising. A knowledge of small prosthetics is essential for theatre and film work; that is, putting on a seamless false nose, creating scars and making the wounded soldier appear to bleed. All important, especially when an actor plays more than one part in, for example, a period drama; then it is off stage right as a victorious British soldier circa 16th century and on stage left for the next scene as a dead Spanish sailor.

Fashion, as much as film, may find the committed make-up artist in strange settings, giving the final puff of powder up a crane in Dockland or in a wild rural spot. The final creation is always a co-operative effort and the make-up artist is part of a team, even for a day in a studio on a fashion shoot. After consultation with the stylist, who will explain what "look" is needed, models are made up, including handbags and any other exposed skin area, with great attention to detail.

Skin type must be taken into consideration when ap-



Creating a character, the more demanding the better: Sabrina Low applies the delicate touch on a theatre assignment

plying and removing cosmetics. Each skin colour needs an individual design from the fair skin that accompanies red hair to the dark skin shades of black and Asian models.

Ellen Kramer has been in the business four years, which includes the time spent offering her services at a minimum charge on photographic "tests" and doing a course which prepared her for every make-up situation. Now her main work is for women's magazines and catalogues. Her preference is the precise artistry for close-up beauty

shots, which is still rare. Ellen is in demand by black performers, particularly for record covers.

"Luckily I have avoided any pigeonholes," she says. "The first two years were hard work and I earned very little money. But now I have enough work so I can say that I am paid to do what I love."

The will must exist to put in time and money—skill and perseverance pays off. Independent courses are expensive; the best are run by practising make-up artists.

Although most make-up artists remain in a chosen area of work, it is possible to combine theatre and film or stills and commercials. Film production companies are more likely to use make-up artists with fashion experience.

Before the first production meeting, the make-up artist will have studied the script and prepared a budget. Technical solutions may need to be thought through for shower and swimming-pool scenes or special effects. Make-up must be appropriate to period, style and story location.

Sabrina Low is familiar with all these aspects from her

work in film, theatre and fashion. She enjoys creating a character, the more demanding the better. "In opera there is plenty of scope but because the cast are chosen for their voices, above all, I may be asked to turn a dusky woman in her thirties into Helen of Troy. For another singer, I had to create two designs; in the first half he played a god, in the second a barbarian."

Because she covers such a wide field, Ms Low's professional tools—which include 72 lipsticks, Carmen rollers, wig blocks and materials for small prosthetics—are worth sev-

**MAKING IT**  
 • STYC Higher National Diploma in Theatrical Studies, Option A, Make-up, London College of Fashion, 20 John Prince Street, London WC2A 2LL  
 • City & Guilds Certificate, full or part time. Hairdressing, cosmetic make-up, wigmaking.  
 • British Beauty Make-up, by Richard Corran, published by Pavilion Hall.

eral thousand pounds. She says: "When you are working, it is well-paid, but high wages must cover periods of unemployment, when I spend hours in the National Portrait Gallery in London. Research is something I enjoy and is particularly relevant for opera."

As well as work on live performance with Opera Factory, Ms Low, in keeping with her flair for spectacle, has made up Archibald, a circus troupe known for its chainsaws and motorbikes, for a French television appearance, and the "catars" for a cinema film.

As in many professions where the competition is intense, experience is necessary even before applying for training courses. A background in art or hairdressing is helpful, as is a portfolio of photographed work. Building models may be willing to collaborate and share the cost of quality photographs.

"Presenting your work is an important part of getting contracts," she says. "At first, it needs a lot of street-pounding, now I have a 10-minute video show on VHS and my agent keeps me in touch."

01-481 1066

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

## Leicester University LECTURESHIPS

Applications are invited for the following Lectureships normally tenable from 1 October 1990:

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**Lectureship Grade A in the History of Science** tenable for one year from 1 September 1990.

Candidates will be expected to teach a course on nineteenth- and twentieth-century science to Science students, to offer a course in the same period on the social history of medicine to History students, and to supervise related computer project work. The funds available for this temporary post only provide for an appointment to be made at the bottom point of the salary scale.

## ITALIAN

**Lectureship Grade A**

Candidates with research interests in any area of Italian language and Literature will be considered.

## SOCIOLOGY

**Lectureship Grade A**

The successful candidate will be required to teach in the field of research methods. Preference may be given to candidates with additional experience in the sociology of gender.

Initial salary will be dependent on the qualifications and experience of the person appointed. The Lecturer Grade A scale is £10,458 to £15,372.

Further particulars and application forms from the Staffing Office, (Academic Appointments), Tel (0533) 522438, Fax (0533) 522200.

Closing date for all posts is 30 April 1990.

University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH

## Energy Technology and Buildings Energy and Environment RD&amp;D opportunities Garston, Hertfordshire

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Relocation assistance up to £5,000 may be given. For further details and application form, please write to Mrs J. Mors, Building Research Establishment, Garston, Watford, Herts. WD2 2JR or phone 0928 864748. So that interviews can be held soon the form should be returned by 28 April 1990. Please quote ref: S50/654 (BR/3).

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This is a new position following the setting up of a new Department to carry out the Council's Works activities (including the Direct Services Organisation) to encompass Highways/Housing/Parks and Open Spaces/Transport/Stores/Maintenance and a UPVC Factory. The Department has 511 employees.

The DSO Manager will be the Head of Department and JNC Chief Officer conditions will apply.

Applicants should have senior management experience in a contracting environment. No particular discipline is specified but holders of a relevant qualification will have an advantage.

## OPERATIONS MANAGER

Salary to £23k low cost lease car

This is a new position; the person appointed will have day to day operational control of the Departments contracting activities and will report to the DSO Manager.

An experienced Manager with estimating/scheduling/Tender/Contract experience in municipal works functions (except Refuse Collection) is now required to ensure a commercial approach is maintained to these tasks.

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Further details and Form of Application (return by 28 April 1990) available from: Personnel Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough PE1 1NR. Tel: (0753) 85141 Ext. 2338.  
 Restrictions on Political Activity will apply. (Local Government and Housing Act 1988) clause 7.  
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## CONSERVATION

OLDHAM HEALTH AUTHORITY  
 Secretary (Operations) - Finance

## PROJECT ACCOUNTANT

Senior Managers Salary £23,530 pa + PRP

The Royal Oldham Hospital has been chosen as one of the next three roll out sites in the North Western Region scheduled for 1991/92. A Project Team is now being established. This post offers an excellent opportunity to gain valuable experience whilst working within a progressive environment.

## CAPITAL ACCOUNTANT

A & C Grade £21,982 - £13,994 pa

The District has employed Consultants to produce its capital asset register. It is envisaged that a new capital section will be established by the post. The post holder will be responsible for the development of the capital asset register.

Working with Financial Services the post-holder will play a major role in the introduction and ongoing maintenance of systems and procedures relating to capital charges including the development of the Asset Register.

Informal enquiries to: 017-924 0044. Project Accountant post - Mr G. Hildesley, on ext. 245. Capital Accountant post - Mr A.S. Groom, on ext. 245.

Annual report, application forms and job descriptions available from: The Personnel Department, Oldham Health Authority, Oldham District Headquarters, Oldham Royal Infirmary, Union Street West, Oldham OL1 1NL. Tel: 017-924 0044 ext. 222.  
 Closing date: April 20, 1990.  
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## MILTON KEYNES HEALTH AUTHORITY

## ASSISTANT TREASURER (SPECIAL PROJECTS)

Salary: £17,190 plus Performance Related Pay

An enthusiastic party-qualified accountant is required to head the special projects section of the District Treasurer's Department. In addition to having prior day to day responsibility for advising the Treasurer on NHS White Paper issues, the successful candidate will also be responsible for the development and management of financial computer applications.

The implementation of the White Paper "Working for Patients" has significant and existing opportunities for Milton Keynes and we are looking for the best person to assist in procuring health services for the City.

The Authority operates on a low overheads and creditors system and plans exist for this to be expanded over the next twelve months to include commitment accounting.

## ASSISTANT TREASURER (ACCOUNTANCY)

Salary: £17,190 plus Performance Related Pay

This is a key post within the Treasurer's Department and represents an excellent opportunity for career development for an enthusiastic and well motivated individual. The successful candidate will head the Accountancy Section of 5 staff, which is responsible for both Management Accounts and Technical Accounting and be fully involved in the future development of the Excellent Relocation Package. For further information on either job please contact Linda Carey, Deputy Treasurer on 0908 660033 Ext 2439.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from: Miss A J Capp, Secretary/Personnel Assistant, Milton Keynes Health Authority, Finance Department, District Headquarters, Standing Way, Eaststone, Milton Keynes, MK5 6LD. Tel: 0908 660033 Ext 5517.

Closing date for applications: April 23rd 1990.

## PUBLIC FINANCE

## NORTH WEST-SURREY HEALTH AUTHORITY

## ASSISTANT TREASURER - FINANCIAL SERVICES

Senior Managers Pay Scale 17

Salary: £21,080pa (including London Weighting) plus Performance Related Pay

Applications are invited from qualified accountants to join a progressive department. The successful applicant will head the Financial Accounts and Creditor Payment Sections and will be responsible for the production of the Annual Financial Accounts and Returns of the Authority.

A new General Ledger Accounting System (Millentum) will be introduced on April 1, 1991, and the holder of this post will play a key role in the implementation of the system.

Experience of Health Service finance would be an advantage together with expertise in computerised financial systems.

Further information available from: Ian Waller, Assistant Director of Finance (Financial Control) on 0932 872000 ext 2111.

Application form and job description from: Recruitment Manager, Botolph Claydon Hospital, Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 0DA. Tel: Ottershaw (0932) 874800 (24-hour answering service). Ref: 310.

Closing date: April 23, 1990.



## Senior European Judicial Appointment in the EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

The Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office (EPO) constitute an independent appellate body exercising final jurisdiction under the European Patent Convention (EPC) which provides a framework of law, common to 14 European States, for the grant of patents for inventions.

The Boards are located at EPO headquarters in Munich.

The rapidly expanding work of the EPO calls for the appointment of additional Board Members at senior judicial level.

Applicants, preferably in the 45-55 age bracket, should be experienced lawyers either in private practice or in employment, or be members of the judiciary of one of the fourteen EPC Contracting States.

Successful candidates will be appointed and sworn into office for a period of five years. The appointment is renewable. The starting basic salary ranges from DM 11 000 (age 45) to DM 13 000 (age 55) per month and is exempt from national income tax. Additional benefits include expatriation and family allowances, comprehensive private health insurance and a contributory pension scheme. Relocation expenses will be paid.

Requests for additional information and applications enclosing full Curriculum Vitae should be addressed to:

The Personnel Directorate  
 European Patent Office  
 Erhardstrasse 27  
 D-5000 Munich 2

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- Extensive knowledge of contemporary Jewry, Israel, its institutions, and international relationships.
- A comprehensive, thorough knowledge of Jewish history, beliefs and practices.
- Command of languages (preferably including Hebrew).

We would expect him/her to respect traditional Jewish values, and be able to develop a sound management structure.

Applications in strict confidence and before April 30 to:

The President  
 Board of Deputies  
 of British Jews  
 Wolman House  
 Tavistock Square  
 London WC1H 0EZ



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Professional rule-bending destroys the spectacle of the fourth cricket Test in Barbados

# Game marred by cynicism because stakes are too high

**Bridgetown**  
THE professional foul has been with us ever since professionalism. The fourth day of the fourth Test match of this series was remarkable for the sustained performance of deliberate rule-bending and gamesmanship from start to finish, and from both sides.

"It is widely acknowledged that if both sides agree to cheat, then cheating is fair," C. B. Fry said. That principle seems to have been taken on Sunday to the point of ludicrousness.

Allan Lamb, England's captain, slowed down the over-rate as a tactical move. It made for a Pythonesque day's play, with shoe-laces fiddled with here and boots taken right off and put back on again over there. Change the field. Oops, change it back again.

Lamb managed the impossible: he and his team reduced one of the most tense and important Test matches in years into a day of jaw-breaking tedium. Well, the West Indies did it to our brave boys in Port of Spain, didn't they? Or as C. B. Fry would no doubt say, what's that to do with anything?

As a little bonus at the end of the day, we had the outrageous intimidation of the umpire by the West Indies captain, Viv Richards. His yelling, finger-flicking charge up the wicket looked almost like a physical threat. Certainly it conned a totally incorrect decision from poor



Simon Barnes

Lloyd Barker. It is awful, all this, of course it is, but in a way, I don't blame the players. Professional cricketers do not go to the Caribbean for their holidays; they are here as a major career move. Sport is not the pastime to these people; it is not a mere living either. Their lives, their futures, and their self-esteem depend on an industry that can take its workers to dizzy heights of achievement, or can dump them brutally.

It is not a gentle life, with pleasant days spent playing an agreeable game. It is a life of great tensions, and great worries. Richards can feel the end of his career approaching and he dreads the sting of failure in this series: hence his mad charge that might for ever blight the career of Bailey, or caught off his backside, Lamb, a central part of the team that might yet make history, is fearful that his first crack as England captain (standing in for Gooch) might see this series lost.

This is not the village green. And in truth, the stakes have become too high for the format of the game. This is true in cricket: it is also true in virtually every sport. The professional foul is part of

them all: athletes take drugs, rugby players stomp heads, tennis players scream, footballers invented the term. So change the format of the game, right?

The point is not to say "Oh, how shocking," and "We would never tolerate such goings on at the Tewn Irregulars". Professional sport is not comparable to such things. Of course it would be nicer if players behaved like gentlemen: but with careers and all at stake, they are not likely to. It all matters far too much for that.

It is more important that you accept that players will take it all with such massive seriousness that rule-breaking is inevitable. The next important thing is to decide what to do about it. The one thing you do not do is leave it down to the honour of the players.

Players earn their money and the big-dipper excitement of their lives because sport attracts public interest. Competition enthralls. It is the player's duty to the public not to "entertain", but to compete. The negative ambitions of one team can lead to an enthralling game of tensions, after all.

But Sunday's professional rule-bending destroyed the spectacle, and destroyed its satisfaction for its audience. Ultimately, this is counter-productive for the sport, and for the players themselves.

So, if it is better for the sport to eradicate rule-bending,

sport should work against it in the expectation that rule-bending will occur. In short, sport needs a fundamental shift in attitude.

In cricket, the umpires must be allowed to take charge. They must be cherished and made much of given great authority and massive rewards. Their status should be altered dramatically: elevated to the pinnacles of sporting administration. The world's pleasure in matches such as this one is, after all, in their hands. They should have the power to stop intimidation, time-wasting, and sledging. In the knowledge that they will be backed up by a governing body that has total faith in them.

The laws and conditions of play should be made absolutely clear, in the knowledge that every loophole will be exploited. Punishment should be effective and inevitable, instead of occasional melodramatic martyr-making that is sport's way.

Players will tell you, of course, that they are not cheating. They are just being professional. It is time that the administrators matched this professionalism with professionalism of their own. If players are cynical about the laws, then the lawmakers have a duty to be cynical about the players.

Heavens! You think this lot is bad? Just wait and see what kind of mess we get into when the football World Cup starts in June.



Reluctant victim: Bailey hesitates before accepting Ambrose has captured his wicket

POINT-TO-POINT

## Embiricos makes most of her chance

By Brian Beal

FIRM ground meant reduced fields at most point-to-point races on Saturday but at Heston, for the 500m 4-year-old fillies, the going was good. Nine races were run and 91 horses started.

The unluckiest loser here was Burke Fleet in the second division of the ladies' open as he was clear four out when a mistake caused Amanda Hamilton-Fairley to lose her horse and run very wide on the bend.

Amanda Embiricos took full advantage of this on Royal Gambit and went eight lengths clear only to be pegged back to half a length again at the line.

Darabon Snipe, successful in The Times Challenge Cup last May, won his first ladies' race for Angela Howard-Chappell at the Pegasus Club.

In the equivalent race at the Jockey Club, Mossy Moore won for the fourth successive time for Sandra Forster, daughter of Ken Oliver, the Hawick trainer.

In five previous seasons, The Of Today has managed just 12 outtings and one success. The 12-year-old made his seasonal debut at the Llangibby and, under Stuart Shotton, was an easy winner of the Audi qualifier.

Tim Jones took his total for the season to 11 wins with a double which included The Screaming Demon, a qualifier for The Times final, in the open.

Speculation, who ended last season with two victories, completed the triple by beating Daybreak Girl on his appearance under Martin Gifford in the Essex open.

After an earlier mishap, Tunny missed two winning rides at the Cleveland. Howard Brown deposited on Ladybird Star in the open and David Kinsella on Ingleby Metro in the maiden.

Not Quite A Lady made her third run in eight days under Lynne Ward, a winning one, being left to finish alone when already clear in the four-year-old ladies' open.

Alister Usher, most successful rider of the day with a treble at the Ladbroke, was unlucky not to have four. Riding Little Rise in a leg of the restricted, he was two lengths clear of Rubyday Boy (Gordon Hobbs) when he came in at the second last. He recovered to be beaten only 1½ lengths.

Usher's winners were Another Orbit in the hunt race, Amble in the open and Sparrow City in the second leg of the maiden.

**Teberryan gets narrow vote in Times qualifier**  
TEBERRYAN, a good second to Maurice Head at Ascot for the PPGA meeting where each runner gets a bonus.

Entries for the eight races total 378 and the feature race is the first running of the ladies' open for the Princess Royal Trophy.

Princess Royal Trophy (first prize £2,000) 4.45. Teberryan (Brian Beal) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 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1262nd, 1263rd, 1264th, 1265th, 1266th, 1267th, 1268th, 1269th, 1270th, 1271st, 1272nd, 1273rd, 1274th, 1275th, 1276th, 1277th, 1278th, 1279th, 1280th, 1281st, 1282nd, 1283rd, 1284th, 1285th, 1286th, 1287th, 1288th, 1289th, 1290th, 1291st, 1292nd, 1293rd, 1294th, 1295th, 1296th, 1297th, 1298th, 1299th, 1300th, 1301st, 1302nd, 1303rd, 1304th, 1305th, 1306th, 1307th, 1308th, 1309th, 1310th, 1311st, 1312nd, 1313th, 1314th, 1315th, 1316th, 1317th, 1318th, 1319th, 1320th, 1321st, 1322nd, 1323rd, 1324th, 1325th, 1326th, 1327th, 1328th, 1329th, 1330th, 1331st, 1332nd, 1333rd, 1334th, 1335th, 1336th, 1337th, 1338th, 1339th, 1340th, 1341st, 1342nd, 1343rd, 1344th, 1345th, 1346th, 1347th, 1348th, 1349th, 1350th, 1351st, 1352nd, 1353rd, 1354th, 1355th, 1356th, 1357th, 1358th, 1359th, 1360th, 1361st, 1362nd, 1363rd, 1364th, 1365th, 1366th, 1367th, 1368th, 1369th, 1370th, 1371st, 1372nd, 1373rd, 1374th, 1375th, 1376th, 1377th, 1378th, 1379th, 1380th, 1381st, 1382nd, 1383rd, 1384th, 1385th, 1386th, 1387th, 1388th, 1389th, 1390th, 1391st, 1392nd, 1393rd, 1394th, 1395th, 1396th, 1397th, 1398th, 1399th, 1400th, 1401st, 1402nd, 1403rd, 1404th, 1405th, 1406th, 1407th, 1408th, 1409th, 1410th, 1411st, 1412nd, 1413th, 1414th, 1415th, 1416th, 1417th, 1418th, 1419th, 1420th, 1421st, 1422nd, 1423rd, 1424th, 1425th, 1426th, 1427th, 1428th, 1429th, 1430th, 1431st, 1432nd, 1433rd, 1434th, 1435th, 1436th, 1437th, 1438th, 1439th, 1440th, 1441st, 1442nd, 1443rd, 1444th, 1445th, 1446th, 1447th, 1448th, 1449th, 1450th, 14







Faldo stares ahead, unhearing, like O'Toole riding through the desert, as he claims his second Masters

# The master who is a man in a billion

From David Miller

Augusta National Golf Club

"Well, that's it," the man from the Sunday Correspondent said, turning his attention away from Nick Faldo in the direction of the likely winner, Ray Floyd.

There was an air of finality in this comment as Faldo gently clipped his ball out of the bunker at the back of the dreaded short 12th and saw it roll downhill 12 feet past the hole. The opinion in question was not one to be ignored, for the man is by way of being a known smart observer on such matters of probability. Moreover, at about the same time Floyd and Faldo were, as they would reveal later, arriving at much the same estimation themselves on the state of the Masters tournament.

When Jack Nicklaus, who has been regularly winning the event since many of those present, including Faldo, with whom he was playing, were boys, holed a 15th putt on the same horrible 12th for a birdie two, the retreat of Faldo's chances was even more emphasized. And we were so busy watching Floyd, 100 yards away on the 11th, lip the hole with his first putt for a near 11-under par, that we nearly failed to notice Faldo's putt steal back up the 12th green slope for a priceless par three.

No single stroke can be said to win a tournament, but if any stroke enabled Faldo to retain his title, that was it. But for that, he would have been five strokes instead of four behind, with six holes to play, when minutes later Floyd emulated Nicklaus by scoring a birdie at the 12th.

Later, Floyd, almost inconsolable after what he called the most devastating moment in his career — the water-bound short iron to the second sudden-death hole, the 11th — would say: "I didn't think I could say 'I knew I just somehow had to stick in there, that I was the last one who might now catch him.'"

Stick he did. With the snowballing crowd's tremendous cheers, as they gathered behind the last four players, ringing in his ears as loudly for Nicklaus's birdie at the next hole as for the scoreboard news of Floyd's birdie one hole back, Faldo gave them cause for thought with the first of three birdies in four holes.

It is difficult to say what makes a great golfer because there are more complexities in

golf than in almost any other sport. Cricket and football need balance, timing, eye and, sometimes, physical courage. A golfer has to manage five different categories of club, one of them, the putter, utterly different from the other four, playing stationary shots painstakingly calculated, with a billiard-like people watching and waiting to say he is an idiot.

Faldo's enormous, and seemingly unshakable, strength, apart from excellent technique, including an agonizingly restyled swing, is that he appears to be able to play without noticing the other billion.

When he dropped two strokes at the opening hole — "Got rid of all my bad shots at one go: bunkered drive, approach 40 yards short, weak chip, bad putt" — the chauvinistic crowd almost ignored the Englishman's presence for the next four or five holes; never mind that he was the holder and, with Nicklaus, had a birdie at the second, thanks to a fine short pitch to the front of the green.

He nearly scored a birdie at the third, with an approach to within 2½ ft, his first putt running round the rim and out. He and Nicklaus were now level at six under, the crowd exuberantly over-reacting with raucous yells of "Jack's having a real burn", and such like. Jack, however, took three putts at the long 5th to go five under, missed from six feet at the short 6th to go four under, but was still obliged to give the almost royal acknowledgement, half-raised hand, half a smile, as the pair approached each green to huge applause. For him.

US online stated  
27th R. Floyd, 70, 68, 68, 72; N. Faldo (GB), 71, 72, 68, 68; Faldo won at second extra hole.  
28th J. Nicklaus, 72, 73, 70, 68; J. Huston, 68, 74, 68, 75.  
29th F. Compton, 74, 68, 72, 69.  
30th J. Nicklaus, 72, 70, 68, 74.  
31st C. Strange, 70, 73, 71, 72; S. Ballesteros (Esp), 74, 73, 69, 71; T. Watson, 77, 71, 67, 70; J. B. Jackson, 74, 71, 72; S. Langer (W.G.), 70, 73, 68, 74; S. Stricker, 74, 71, 68, 73.  
32nd J. A. O. O'Connell (Ire), 72, 68, 74.  
33rd R. P. P. (GB), 72, 74, 69, 73; L. Mize, 70, 73, 71, 71; C. S. S. (W.G.), 72, 70, 74, 73, 68, 74; S. Hoch, 71, 68, 73, 70.  
34th F. Zoller, 72, 74, 73, 70; M. Calzaghe, 74, 73, 73, 68; S. Jones, 77.  
35th M. O'Connell (Ire), 70, 71, 77, 72.  
36th D. Hammond, 71, 74, 73, 71; G. Player

Faldo stared ahead, focus narrow, unhearing, like O'Toole riding through the desert.

At the beautiful horizontal conjunction of the 6th and short 16th, they had to wind their way through what was almost like the Goodwood enclosure in August, past picnics and a thousand people disconcertingly crunching the ice from their Coke.

At the 7th, Nicklaus, having demolished a banana on the way down the fairway after driving into the crowd, played out into a bunker but raised the roof by holing his sand wedge for a birdie. Faldo, with a perfect approach, calmly did likewise. The batting order was now Floyd nine under, Faldo seven, Nicklaus five.

The Augusta course is a miracle of gardening: its thousands of acres of weedless fairway as crisp as a fine toothbrush and far more true than today's Wembley, its frictionless greens as sloping, undulating tin trays. At the par-five 8th, the crowd as one man groaned "It's short!" at Nicklaus's little pitch on to the green; and watched it run 14 feet past.

Faldo was eight under when he holed from eight feet at the 9th, immediately surrendering the stroke when he bunkered his approach to the 10th, came out short and needed two putts. Floyd, coming up behind, scored a birdie at the 10th to go 10 under. And so to the 12th: batting order now 11 under, seven, five.

After his perfect birdie at the 13th, Faldo arrived at the 15th green properly accepted by the crowd, reading the indecipherable scoreboard, as the only contender to Floyd. The banked grandstands gave him a standing ovation and he responded with a chipped third shot from just off the green to six feet for another birdie: nine under and in hard

pursuit of their man. At the same hole, Floyd would miss his birdie by an inch from 10 ft.

On to the short 16th and a birdie two; Nicklaus disintegrating hole by hole and under. In the still evening, hushed as a church for every putt, the greens dappled in the lengthening shadows, it was like some vast cocktail party in a private garden.

Then to the penultimate drama. Floyd in the distance dropped a stroke at the par-four 17th just as Faldo was lining up his first putt at the back of the 18th. "Fanny [his caddy] told me and I aimed for the safe two-putt," Faldo said.

Floyd bunkered his 18th drive, went from there into the bunker right of the green, and came up the fairway in a pensive walk. To his great credit, his wedge to within 3½ feet in utter silence earned the play-off. "To have lost, without a play-off would have been even worse," he said.

Down the 10th he and Faldo had to go once more, towards that vast crowd of eager vultures gleefully waiting for one dead body. Faldo's, they hoped.

It looked likely to be that way when he bunkered his second shot. Floyd stared up through the trees at the disappearing sunlight with a half smile. "I'd hit two good shots and liked the line of my putts," he would say afterwards. "But I expected Faldo to come out well. And he did." To four feet.

On to the 11th. "It felt like a pretty good swing," Floyd said of his ill-fated short iron into the brook, "but I knew it was in the water as soon as it left the club."

What pain sport can inflict on an individual. That old imposter, with triumph: disaster. "I don't think I've had anything affect me like this," Floyd said.

Words are not something Faldo bothers with much. "I just kept grinding away — mixed emotions, wondering whether the play-off was going to get its own back on me for last year, the four-foot putt at the 10th. Then, as we went down to the 11th, I was wondering: maybe this is my hole [as last year]."

It was, and history was made, the boy who took up golf after watching Nicklaus on television in the Masters at Easter in 1971 becoming the only player to repeat Nicklaus's successive victories a few years before.

## FINAL SCORES

had to stick in there, that I was the last one who might now catch him."

Stick he did. With the snowballing crowd's tremendous cheers, as they gathered behind the last four players, ringing in his ears as loudly for Nicklaus's birdie at the next hole as for the scoreboard news of Floyd's birdie one hole back, Faldo gave them a cause for thought with the first of three birdies in four holes.

It is difficult to say what makes a great golfer because there are more complexities in

US critics stated

27th R Floyd, 70, 68, 68, 72; N Fald (GB), 71, 69, 68, 68 (Faldo won at second extra hole).

28th L Nicklaus, 72, 70, 70, 68; J Huston, 70, 68, 68, 68.

29th F Copley, 74, 69, 72, 69.

30th L Nicklaus, 72, 70, 69, 74.

31st C Strange, 70, 70, 71, 72; S Langer (FRG), 70, 69, 70, 70; J Westwood (ENG), 71, 67, 67; B Britton, 69, 74, 71, 73; B Langer (FRG), 70, 73, 69, 74; S Simpson, 70, 69, 70, 70.

32nd A Olden (GB), 71, 73, 69, 74.

33rd R Rafferty (GB), 72, 74, 69, 73; L Mick, 70, 70, 71, 71; S Sadiq, 72, 70, 74, 70; J Westwood (ENG), 70, 70, 70, 73, 69, 75; G Hoch, 71, 68, 72, 70.

34th F Zoeller, 72, 69, 73, 70; M Calzaghe, 74, 73, 69, 69; S Jones, 77, 69, 72, 71.

35th T Matsuyama (Japan), 70, 71, 77, 72.

36th D Hammond, 71, 74, 70, 71; G Player (SA), 73, 74, 68, 76; L Trevino, 78, 69, 72, 73.

37th J Stamat, 78, 68, 75, 71; A North, 71, 73, 71, 71; W Eray (Aus), 72, 75, 72, 73.

38th J Westwood (ENG), 70, 70, 70, 70; P Jacobsen, 67, 75, 75, 73; J Mack, 74, 70, 73, 73.

39th W Gleson, 70, 74, 75, 73; N Ozaki (Jpn), 73, 74, 72; A Soren, 76, 72, 74, 72.

40th P Stewart, 71, 73, 77, 74; M Westwood (ENG), 74, 76, 71, 73; T Wynn, 72, 75, 73, 74.

41st M Lyle, 73, 73, 73, 76; C Bech, 72, 74, 73, 73; J Westwood (ENG), 74, 70, 70, 70.

42nd J Hefner, 70, 70, 70, 70; P Senior (Aus), 72, 75, 74, 70; D Pooley, 73, 72, 73, 75.

43rd T Purser, 71, 77, 78, 74; M Hubert, 71, 71, 77, 79.

44th M Donald, 54, 82, 77, 79.

45th L Neilson, 74, 73, 78, 74.

46th J Westwood (ENG), 70, 69, 75, 75; \* denotes amateur.

just kept grinding away — mixed emotions, wondering whether the play-off was going to get its own back on me after last year, the four-foot putt at the 10th. Then, as we went down to the 11th, I was wondering: maybe this is my hole [as last year]."

It was, and history was made. The boy who took up golf after watching Nicklaus on television in the Masters as the only player to repeat as Nicklaus's successive victor a few years before.

## FALDO'S LAST-ROUND PATH TO VICTORY

CONCEDED

## BASKETBALL

## Tigers back in the hunt after setbacks

By Nicholas Harling

THE alarming prospect of facing Kingston for the tenth time this season in the first semi-final of the Carlsberg Championship play-offs at the NEC in Birmingham on Good Friday seems to have done nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of Bracknell Tigers.

The Berkshire club, which has won only two of the previous nine encounters between the clubs this season, could have been forgiven for believing that the fates were conspiring against them when an injury to Paul James was followed by an accident in which the club's coach, Jim Guyon, wrote off his car.

Since that mishap on the way back to his Southampton home following their 27-point reverse at Kingston last Tuesday, Bracknell have gone from strength to strength, even though James has not been able to participate. Torn knee medial

ligaments prevented the England guard facing either Kingston, or contributing to the impressive eclipses of both Manchester and Sunderland at the weekend. He is doubtful, too, for the Carlsberg play-offs.

An unlucky spell for James, aged 25, was exacerbated by his exclusion from the England squad named for the four countries tournament in Glasgow from April 20 to 22.

It was as well for Bracknell that in the absence of James, their other England player, Michael Hayes — who has also been omitted from the squad for Glasgow — acquitted himself so well.

Among his 24 points in the 118-108 defeat of Sunderland were six three-pointers. Scantlebury (30 points) was top scorer for Bracknell, whose late surge enabled them to gain some revenge for the three defeats inflicted by Sunderland this season. For all the efforts of Saunders and Vaughan, who

accumulated 65 points between them, Sunderland could not make it four out of four.

Sunderland's opponents in the second semi-final at Birmingham on Friday are Manchester, who stayed in the south after their 102-100 defeat by Bracknell to finish their league season on an emphatic note, with an overwhelming 112-63 success over the bottom club, London Docklands.

Oldham Celts, the National Trophy winners and National League champions, enhanced their chances of a third trophy by defeating Hemel Royals 83-74 in the first semi-final of the first division play-off. Oldham led by 44-35 at the interval, but it was when Darren Hogg (23 points), Hemel's American, returned from a spell on the bench that the Meridonians club produced two stirring second-half rallies.

One recovery brought Hemel nine points without reply, the second, 11 out of 12 points, but

neither was enough to disturb the equilibrium of the home side, for whom both Trevor Lewis, ever outstanding, Trevant (25) brought the crowd to its feet with four slam dunks, while Lewis (26) kept his nerve in making the game safe from the free throw line.

CARLSBERG LEAGUE: Bracknell Tigers 102 (Scantlebury 29, Roberts 29, Scantlebury 19, Manchester 100 (Johnson 34, Barry 19, Kearney 18, Roberts 18, London Docklands 63 (Roberts 24, Martin 19, Hemel Royals 83 (Scantlebury 30, Hayes 24, Scott 19, Sunderland 108 (Saunders 33, Vaughan 32, Villa 17).

FINAL TABLE	W	L	P
Kingston	28	25	3
Manchester	28	21	7
Sunderland	28	20	8
Derby	20	10	10
Reading	20	10	10
Solent	20	7	13
London	26	2	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division play-off: Oldham Celts 83 (Hogg 23, Trevant 29, Hemel Royals 74 (Hogg 23, Taylor 19).

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

### FOOTBALL

#### Barclays League

##### Second division

Barnsley v Sunderland  
Hull v Blackpool  
Ipswich v Portsmouth (7.45)  
Plymouth v Colchester (7.45)  
Sheff Wed v Watford  
Stoke v Oxford Utd  
Swindon v Brighton (7.45)  
Wolverhampton v Leicester

#### GM Vauxhall Conference

Kettering v Chorley  
Sutton Utd v Enfield

#### Bob Lord Trophy

Semi-final  
Wycombe v Yeovil

#### CLUBBALL CUP: Semi-final replay: Barnsley v Bradford

VAUXHALL FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnsley v Huddersfield (7.45); Bradford v Rotherham (7.45); Second division: Barnsley v Clifton (7.45); Sutton Utd v Heywood (7.45); Third division: Barnsley v Clifton (7.45); Sutton Utd v Heywood (7.45).

#### HPS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnsley v Huddersfield (7.45); Bradford v Rotherham (7.45); Second division: Barnsley v Clifton (7.45); Sutton Utd v Heywood (7.45); Third division: Barnsley v Clifton (7.45); Sutton Utd v Heywood (7.45).

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## SQUASH RACKETS

## The young pretenders bode well for future

By Colin McQuinn

PAUL Hargrave, aged 14, and 6ft tall, fulfilled seeded expectations at the Abbey National British closed junior championships under-16 semi-final to Mark Blowers.

Used to overpowering under-14 opposition in previous years, he was stunned by defeat.

John Lambert, aged 14, stick thin and very small amongst the hearty young contenders filling the Village Leisure Hotel over the weekend, lost to the same player one stage earlier, but went home to Morecambe, Lancashire, content in the knowledge that he had earlier removed John Logan, the seventh seed from Sussex, during the third round. These are the little and large of the British junior ranks; the long and short of squash ambition.

Hargrave, already the top

under-16 and second-ranked under-16 player in Derbyshire, produced a third game against Blowers, the top Yorkshire under-16 of such rhythm and power that John Barrington, the English Director of Excellence, later took him aside with instructions to concentrate his self-analysis upon that singular achievement rather than overall defeat.

Lambert, ranked only third on Lancashire's under-16 list, prised the two opening games from a surprised Logan, and then took a short rest during the counterattack before hitting back to win 9-1 in the fifth.

"Two things are obvious in all this," Barrington said. "Paul will be stronger tomorrow than he is today and John will be bigger. Both prospects are good news for England and bad news for opponents."

## OTHER SPORT

### CRICKET: SKY ONE 3-10.40pm: West Indies v England: Live coverage of the fifth day of the Fourth Test from the Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados. 12-12.30pm (Barbados): Highlights of the fifth day of the Fourth Test from Barbados.

### EUROSPORT — WHAT A WEEK! Eurosport 6-7pm: Review of the week's sports.

### FOOTBALL: Sky Sports 7-9pm: 7.50pm: International highlights, and Spanish league.

### ICE HOCKEY: Eurosport 10-11pm: and 12.00pm-1am: National Hockey League: Game of the week: San Jose Sharks v New York Islanders. 4-4 and 8-20-11.30pm: National Hockey League: Play-offs.

### INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SPORT: Eurosport 8-9pm: Review of the week's motorsport.

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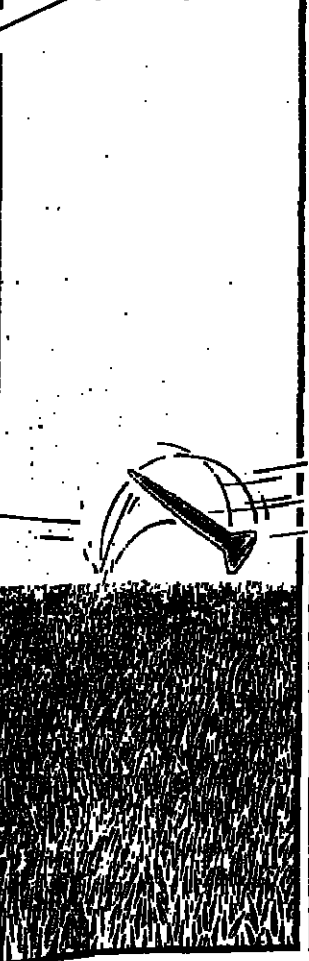
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"Is there anything in these new MacGregor clubs?"



## BOXING

### Jacobs in steady pursuit of title

By Schmirer Sen  
Boxing Correspondent

GARY Jacobs, the Glasgow welterweight who appeared to lose interest in boxing after losing his Commonwealth title last November, is back chasing the world title.

But the 24-year-old former World Boxing Council International champion, returning to the ring after an absence of six months, is not in a hurry any more.

A chastened boxer, Jacobs admitted yesterday that after 19 straight wins he thought he was invincible — until he met Buddy McGirt, of the United States, in New York last August and Donovan Boucher, of Canada, three months later in Melbourne.

"I've learnt to keep my hands up," he said. "I learned a lot from the McGirt fight. But it was no disgrace losing to him because I feel he will win a title one day and, hopefully, I will get a rematch with him."

He maintained that he took the Boucher bout too quickly after the defeat by McGirt. "This game is 95 per cent mental and I was mentally wrong, but I have given my mind a complete rest from boxing for six months. This is like a fresh start for me," he said.

While he intends to challenge for the British and European titles, Jacobs starts cautiously against a Frenchman, Alain Cuvillier, on April 26 at the Latchmere Leisure Centre, Bournemouth. Cuvillier, who lost his French title last May, has had 20 contests, lost six and drawn one. In his last bout in January, he was stopped in four rounds. The show will be promoted by Rosemary Barrett, the wife of Miles, who will be doing the managing and matchmaking.

At the end of the year Jacobs hopes to challenge Kirkland Laing for the British title. "Laing can be beaten at any time," Jacobs said, "but I need a couple of fights to get myself back on the main stage."

Herol Graham, the British middleweight champion from Sheffield, could be boxing for the world title after one more bout — against Ismael Negro, of Puerto Rico, at Dewsbury tomorrow. Graham, who has made a comeback, is back yesterday. "Looking at the WBC ratings, right next in line is Herol Graham."

## SNOOKER

## £1m bonus for Davis once more

STEVE Davis, who on Friday begins his quest for a fourth successive Embassy World Championship and a modern day record of seven titles, was yesterday given a psychological flip with the announcement of a £1 million contract deal with the brewers, Courage, over the next five years to fulfil between 20 and 30 exhibition nights and personal appearances (Steve Atkinson writes).

This is the second time that Courage has engaged Davis for the same period and the same £1 million fee, but this contract is dependent upon Davis staying in the top four in the world rankings but equally "could" be worth more depending upon his success and consequent engagements in Europe and Australia.

Davis said: "It is an enormous commitment to me but I had not been good enough. Courage would not have negotiated the deal the first time around."

Oppell's well be Palace

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Want in which try career

How you want to be a champion

Write it







